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Volume 2, No. 218 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

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Marine Lance Cpl. James Blake Miller, a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment smokes a cigarette last week in Fallujah. The photo has thrust the reluctant Miller, a 20-year-old from Jonancey, Ky., into the role of poster boy for a war.

LUIS SINCO/Los Angeles Times

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Specter's leadership: Sen. Arlen Specter must prove to his Republican colleagues that he is the right man to head the Senate Judiciary Committee in the next Congress, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said Sunday.

Frist, R-Tenn., would not say if he backed Specter, R-Pa., for the job. Specter will make his case to GOP colleagues this week when Congress returns for a postelection session.

Specter, an abortion rights supporter, angered conservatives by suggesting after the Nov. 2 election that judicial nominees with anti-abortion views would have a tough time winning Senate confirmation.

Elizabeth Smart case: Attorneys for a man accused of kidnapping Elizabeth Smart have asked a Salt Lake City judge for additional competency evaluations, potentially delaying a trial already held up for months over the issue.

Heidi Buchi, a lawyer for Brian David Mitchell, argued in a motion filed Wednesday that she has seen a marked decline in Mitchell's capacity to assist in his defense. Deputy District Attorney Kent Morgan said Friday that Mitchell should be examined briefly to determine if his status has changed.

Authorities say Mitchell and his wife, Wanda Barzee, kidnapped Smart, then age 14, from her bedroom in June 2002. She was found safe in a Salt Lake City suburb nine months later.

Titanic damage: The man who found the remains of the ocean liner Titanic nearly two decades ago has returned to the site and is lamenting the damage done by visitors and souvenir hunters.

Undersea explorer Robert Ballard discovered the wreckage of the famous vessel in 1985. He returned to the North Atlantic site this summer for the first time, using remotely controlled submersibles to get a look at the liner, which sank in 1912 after striking an iceberg.

What he found was serious damage to the ship caused by deep diving submarines that have visited the site over the years.

"Our position is, we'd love to have you go down there, but don't touch," he said.

Military

USS Cole attack: A man the United States alleges was the roommate of a suicide bomber in the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen refused to appear before a U.S. military review panel at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an official said Saturday.

The 26-year-old detainee was accused of traveling to Afghanistan to fight for the Taliban and meet with al-Qaida recruiters, said Lt. Gary Ross, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

The attack on the USS Cole in 2000 killed 17 American sailors when a bomb-laden boat rammed the hull of the destroyer in the port of Aden, Yemen. Military officials declined to say when or where the detainee roomed with the suicide bomber.

Army rape charge: An Army lieutenant will face a hearing next week on allegations he raped a fellow soldier in Mississippi, military officials said Saturday.

Michael R. Hall of the 278th Regimental Combat Team will appear at an Article 32 hearing, similar to a civilian court grand



Popeye the senior citizen: An image of Popeye sits in an exhibit Saturday dedicated to the cartoon character at the Museum of Television and Radio in New York. The museum unveiled a retrospective Saturday featuring rarities and collectibles from the cartoon hero's career as Popeye celebrates his 75th birthday this year.

jury hearing, on Tuesday at Camp Shelby, Miss.

The hearing will consider charges of rape, conduct unbecoming an officer and adultery, Lt. Col. Richard Steele said.

The alleged victim, also a lieutenant, said she was raped in August by a fellow officer in the Tennessee-based combat team, which was training at Camp Shelby. The soldiers are among the New Jersey National Guard members who joined to the combat team.

World

Serbian war crimes: Serbia's Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica said Sunday in Belgrade that his government cannot arrest war crimes suspects sought by the U.N. tribunal because it would undermine the Balkan republic's stability.

But Kostunica suggested that authorities are trying to negotiate the surrender of at least some of the 15 Serb suspects sought by the court in The Hague, Netherlands. Kostunica faces huge international pressure to cooperate with the U.N. court, which is trying those responsible for atrocities committed during the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

Irish peace process: The Ulster Defense Association, Northern Ireland's largest outlawed group, announced Sunday it wants to begin peace-making efforts, a potentially significant step forward in the peace process.

The anti-Catholic group, which killed more than 400 people in its self-proclaimed "war" against Irish Republican Army supporters, issued the statement two days after Britain announced it had accepted that the UDA was observing a truce.

In its statement, the UDA said: "From today we are prepared to move into a process. Our commitment to that process will be to work towards a day when there is no longer a need for a UDA."

Pakistani-Indian talks: Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said Sunday in Islamabad

abed he will discuss all outstanding issues, including the territorial dispute over Kashmir, with his Indian counterpart during a visit to New Delhi next week.

Aziz is to leave for India on Nov. 23 as chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, or SAARC. He also is to visit Sri Lanka and the Maldives to discuss regional and international issues.

Pakistan and India have a history of bitter relations, but Aziz's visit to New Delhi comes at a time when officials from the two countries are preparing for peace talks next month.

Chechen civilian casualties: At least 100 civilians have been killed in Chechnya since the start of the year, and 100 others who were abducted are still missing, a leading Russian human rights group said Sunday.

Most of those who died were killed by federal forces and their local collaborators, said Dmitry Grushkin of the Memorial Human Rights Center.

The data on victims and the disappearances of civilians was gathered by the organization's staff in several regions of Chechnya, he said.

Ukrainian elections: More than 40 students went on a hunger strike in northeastern Ukraine on Sunday to protest the jailing of six election observers during last month's presidential vote, Ukrainian television reported.

The observers, from opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko's party, were convicted Saturday of resisting police during the vote and sentenced to 10 days in prison, prompting the students to set up a tent camp in the city of Sunny, near the Russian border, and start their strike, the independent TV5 channel and other media reported.

The six observers were arrested after they demanded to see vote tallies at a polling station during the Oct. 31 vote. A scuffle broke out when election officials refused and police arrested the observers.

Photo and stories from wire services

Correction

Two photo captions accompanying an article in Sunday's editions about OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopters were incorrect. Capt. Dale Bond in one photo and the OH-58 that was being repaired in another photo both belong to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division.

Your favorite comics
every day
in Stars and Stripes

Commander praises U.S. occupation of Fallujah

Marine General says forces learned a lot from April mistakes

By JIM KRANE
The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — In April, 2,000 U.S. Marines fought for three weeks and failed to take Fallujah from its insurgent defenders. This time, war planners sent six times the troops, who fought their way across the rebel city in just six days — far more quickly than expected, the Marine general who designed the ground assault said Sunday.

Marine Maj. Gen. Richard Natonski said he and other commanders learned from April's failed three-week Marine assault on Fallujah, which was called off by the Bush administration after a worldwide outcry over civilian deaths. This time, the military sent over 10,000 troops and 20 types of aircraft. Troops also failed attacks before the assault to confuse enemy fighters.

"Maybe we learned from April," Natonski said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We learned we can't do it piecemeal."

"When we go in, we go all the way through. We had the green light this time and we went all the way."

"Had we done in April what we did now, the results would've been the same."

Natonski spoke during a visit to the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade, the unit charged with isolating Fallujah under a security cordon.

More than 1,200 insurgents have been killed since the operation, he said. Rebel attacks elsewhere — especially in the northern city of Mosul — have forced the Americans to shift troops away from Fallujah.

Exploiting the redeployment, insurgents stepped up attacks in areas outside Fallujah, including a bombing that killed two U.S. Marines on the outskirts of the former rebel base about 40 miles west of Baghdad.

On Sunday, Marines and Army units were still battling gritty bands of defenders scattered in buildings and bunkers across the Sunni Muslim stronghold. Behind them, Iraqi troops were enmeshed in the painstaking task of clearing weapons and fighters from every room of Fallujah's estimated 50,000 buildings.

U.S. forces now occupy — but have yet to subdue — the entire city. It still could take several days of fighting to clear the final pockets of resistance, the military said.

On Sunday, U.S. soldiers from Task Force 2-2 of the 1st Infantry Division discovered an immense series of underground bunkers linked by tunnels that insurgents stocked with medical supplies, a CNN correspondent embedded with the unit reported.

Marines reopened the bridge where the bodies of two American contractors killed by militants were strung up in March, sparking the earliest U.S. siege.

"This is a big event for us," Maj. Todd Des Grosselliers, 41, of Aurora, Maine, said, as he saw Marines rolled back concertina wire and swept the bridge for booby traps.

Also, Marines in Fallujah found the mutilated body of what they believe was a Western woman. The body was lying in the street covered with a blood-soaked cloth.

A Marine officer speaking on condition of anonymity said he was "80 percent sure" it was a Western woman. Two foreign women



Marines of the 1st Division take up position as they advance in the western part of Fallujah, Iraq, on Sunday. The U.S. military's ground and air assault of Fallujah has gone quicker than expected, with the entire city occupied after six days of fighting, the Marine commander who planned the offensive said.

General: 31 American troops die during assault on Fallujah

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — A U.S. general said Sunday that 31 American troops and six Iraqi soldiers have been killed so far in the battle to retake the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

Lt. Gen. John Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, made the remarks at a U.S. base near Fallujah, which lies 40 miles west of Baghdad.

"Right now it looks like we've lost 31 coalition warriors who've fallen in combat, soldiers and Marines, and six Iraqi

warriors who are fighting side by side with us," he said.

Sattler also said that the number of U.S. troops injured was "up in the high 200s." Some of them have been returned to duty already, he said.

Sattler said that between 1,000-1,200 insurgents have been killed and the city has been "liberated," though U.S. forces are continuing to target small pockets of resistance.

"The perception of Fallujah being a safe haven for terrorists, that perception and the reality of it will be completely wiped off before the conclusion of this operation," Sattler said.

were kidnapped last month — Margaret Hassan, 59, the director of CARE International in Iraq and Teresa Borcz Khalifa, 54, a Polish-born longtime resident of Iraq.

In Warsaw, the Polish Foreign Ministry said it was seeking more information.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society said another convoy would travel from Baghdad to Fallujah on Monday, carrying food and aid for about 2,000 families living in the area, director Fardous al-Ubaidi said.

A convoy of four such vehicles arrived in Fallujah on Saturday.

In central Buhair, 25 miles northeast of Baghdad, demonstrators marched to protest the Fallujah offensive and denounce Iraq's interim prime minister, Ayad Alawi.

In Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, militiamen attacked two police stations, killing at least six Iraqi National Guards and wounding three others, Iraqi officials said. One insurgent was killed and three others were wounded, they said. Iraqi security forces regained control of both stations, witnesses said.

About 300 Iraqi National Guards and a battalion of police from Baghdad patrolled the streets in a visible show of force after an

insurgent uprising believed to have been mounted in support of Fallujah's militants.

Back in Fallujah, contractors are supposed to swarm into Fallujah to cart away rubble, repair buildings and fix the city's utilities once the final insurgents are subdued, Natonski said.

The Iraqi government already has picked leaders for Fallujah, and thousands of Iraqi police and paramilitary forces have been recruited to impose order.

Natonski described the six days of ground war as a "flawless execution of the plan we drew up. We are actually ahead of schedule."

Several pre-assault tactics made the battle easier than expected, he said.

Insurgent defenses were weakened by bombing raids on command posts and safe houses. Air-dropped leaflets also may have demoralized some defenders and convinced some residents the city would be better off under government control, he said.

Natonski said these fake attacks forced the insurgents to build up forces in the south and east, perhaps diverting defenders from the north, where six battalions of Army and Marine troops finally punched into the city Monday.

The deceptive maneuvers also drew fire from defenders' bunkers, which were exposed and relentlessly bombed before the ground assault.

"We declassified the enemy to the formations they saw on the night we attacked," Natonski said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,179 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 903 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Friday. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The AP count is thirteen higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,041 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 794 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two Marines were killed Saturday in a bombing outside Fallujah.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Cpl. Jarrod L. Maher, 21, Eugene, Iowa, died Friday of a non-hostile gunshot wound at Abu Ghraib, Iraq, assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Sgt. Morgan W. Strader, 23, Crosville, Ind., killed Friday in Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Nathan R. Anderson, 22, Howard, Ohio, killed Friday in Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Cpl. Brian P. Preening, 24, Sheboygan, Wis., killed Friday in Babil province; assigned to Marine Corps Reserve's 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Chicago, Ill.

■ Marine Staff Sgt. Theodore S. Holder II, 27, Littleton, Colo., killed Thursday in Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine 2nd Lt. James P. Blecksmith, 24, San Marino, Calif.; killed Thursday in Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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Dising up news and voices from home

Satellite systems for TV or Internet service popular with troops on bases in Iraq

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — Across the sea of aluminum conex trailers at bases around Iraq, small orbs of communication are sprouting like foliage.

Units and groups of people are pitching in to buy satellite systems for either television or Internet service, to help bring them a little closer to home.

"It's working out pretty well," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dave Smith, a Florida National Guardsman serving with Company H, 171st Aviation Regiment at Anaconda.

He and a few colleagues bought an Internet satellite system from the unit they replaced and plan to sell it to the one that replaces them.

Up to 12 people can use it, although they try to vary usage so everyone isn't on at once.

"We try to be courteous and not download big files," Smith said.

Having the system allows them to communicate with family back home at odd hours, without a long walk to a Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent.

"Mostly it's just the convenience," Smith said. At the MWR Internet tent "you had to wait in line and you could only use it for 15 minutes." He now chats with home via instant messenger a few times a day.

It also allowed him to keep a close watch on local concerns at home.

"Some people are from Florida, so we're always watching the hurricane track," he said.



Satellite dishes jam the tops of living trailers at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq. Except the large dish to the right, all are personal, commercial systems.

The service is great but it isn't cheap. The group pitched in a few hundred dollars apiece to buy the system and pay about \$70 more for the monthly subscription.

"It's well worth it to stay in touch with family," said Sgt. Cleveland Joyner, also with the 171st and a member of the Kentucky National Guard.

The officers have one and en-

listed soldiers have another. Both groups were lucky to have the perfect person to help them with installation and maintenance.

Sgt. Gene Bergfield, also with the Florida National Guard, is an engineer for Lockheed and a self-proclaimed computer geek.

"It's kind of a little hobby of mine," he said. "I knew this was out there but I never thought about it till I got one."

With the Internet access, he can chat with his wife. She knows when he's going to be online.

"It's made a big difference," he said. "It's saved me a lot of money in phone bills."

More common than Internet is satellite TV, found in nearly every living area in the country.

Servicemembers can buy antennae and dishes for the Ameri-

can Forces Network or several other types of TV lineups.

At Anaconda, members of the 28th Public Affairs Detachment each pitched in about \$25 for an Orbit satellite system and one year of television service.

"You pay that for one month of cable in the States," said Staff Sgt. David Gillespie, noncommissioned officer in charge.

The group now watches ESPN, a variety of cable networks, the Disney Channel and about 100 more, although only a handful of them are in English.

They learned of the system from another unit and had an Iraqi contractor working with them to install and install it.

"I was really hesitant [at first] because I didn't know what we would be getting into," Gillespie said. "We wondered if we would actually get any channels."

In the 27th Engineer Battalion living area at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, clusters of satellite dishes line the horizon above the trailers.

Master Sgt. Robert Scholtz, communications section chief, said there really aren't many rules governing satellites. For security reasons, troops are not allowed to use wireless technology anywhere in the theater.

At some bases, groups with Internet satellites have been told not to use Web cams in their trailers.

In either case, Scholtz said, he always reminds soldiers about operational security.

"OPSEC is always a big thing. We always tell them, 'Whatever you put out there, they're listening.'"

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@patrips.osd.mil

New system will replace base's power generators

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — The constant throbbing and ubiquitous humming of hundreds of generators found outside every tent and building has been as much a part of the base's ambience as the persistent mortar and rocket attacks.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeff Peterson may not be able to stop the daily fireworks, but he and his 17 soldiers from 3rd Detachment, Company B, 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) are about to make the base a little quieter.

A 24-megawatt power system goes on line by year's end to replace the hundreds of generators that fill the base with a constant "hum."

Once that happens, the only place to hear that familiar sound, Peterson said, will be where the 18 1.4-megawatt power units will be tethered together to produce enough electricity to keep this base of 23,000 supplied with everything from hot coffee and communications to surgery equipment.

"The difference that the average ordinary person is going to notice is that they don't see a generator on every corner," said Peterson, whose unit is out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

The new system, which should be up and running in December, will be more consistent, Peterson said. But it will also be more efficient.

"When you have 1,000 small generators, [they] require manpower. They require fuel to keep them running," he explained.

The new system will free up the teams that have maintained the churning generators on the sprawling base. It will also free up the people who moved daily around the base to fill the generators with fuel.

The generators now being used will be spread around the base for back-up at critical locations, such as the Air Force Theater Hospital and the communications unit.

Peterson said the challenge at Logistic Support Area Anaconda, the main logistics base in the country, is to keep up with the growth. It was originally designed for 10,000 people, but is now more than twice that.



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeff Peterson stands in front of part of the new power generation system at Logistic Support Area Anaconda, Iraq. Peterson, a power system technician, said the new system will replace the hundreds of generators that give the sprawling base a low-level hum. The new system will go online before year's end.

He said the new system would not be the last word in power supply for the base.

"Even the 24-megawatt [system] will

have to grow to meet the demands next summer," he said.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.estrps.osd.mil

'Marlboro Man' just wants another smoke

Newspaper photograph brings unwanted attention to a young Marine in Fallujah

By PATTY J. McDONNELL

Los Angeles Times

FALLUJAH, Iraq — The "Marlboro Man" was angry: He has a war to fight, and he's running out of smokes.

"If you want to write something," he tells an intruding reporter, "tell Marlboro I'm down to four packs, and I'm here in Fallujah till who knows when. Maybe they can send some. And they can bring down the price a bit."

Those are the unfettered sentiments of Marine Lance Cpl. James Blake Miller, 20, a country boy from Kentucky who has been thrust unwittingly and somewhat unwillingly into the role of poster boy for a war on the other side of the world from his home on the farm.

"I just don't understand what all the fuss is about," Miller draws on Friday as he crouches — Marlboro is only in place — inside an abandoned building with his platoon mates, preparing to fight insurgents holed up in yet another mosque.

"I was just smokin' a cigarette, and someone takes my picture and it all blows up."

"I was just smokin' a cigarette, and someone takes my picture and it all blows up."

Marine Lance Cpl.
James Blake Miller

Miller is the young man whose gritty, war-hardened portrait appeared Wednesday in the Los Angeles Times, shot by Luis Sinco, a Los Angeles Times photographer embedded with Miller's unit, Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment.

In the full-frame photo, taken after more than 12 hours of nearly nonstop deadly combat, Miller's camouflage war paint is smudged. He sports a bloody nick on his nose. His helmet and chin strap frame a weary expression that seems to convey the timeless fatigue of battle. And there is the cigarette, of course, drooping from the right side of his mouth in a jaunty manner that Humphrey Bogart or John Wayne would have approved of. Wispy smoke drifts off to his left.

The image has quickly moved into the realm of the iconic.

More than 100 newspaper printings, although it took the New York Post to sum it up in a front-page headline: "Marlboro Men Kick But in Fallujah." The fact that Miller's name was not included in the caption material only seemed to enhance its punch.

The Los Angeles Times and other publications have received scores of e-mails wanting to know about this mysterious figure. Many women, in particular, have inquired about how to contact him. "The photo captures his weariness, yet his eyes hold the spirit of the hunter and the hunter," wrote one e-mailing admirer.

Maybe it's about America striking back at a perceived enemy, or maybe it's just the sense of one young man putting his life on the line halfway across the globe.

Whatever the case, the photo seems to have struck a chord, and top Marine brass are thrilled.

Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, dropped in on Company C on Friday to laud the Marlboro Men.

"That's a great picture," echoed Col. Craig Tucker, who heads the regimental combat team that includes Miller's battalion. "We're having one blown up and sent over to the unit."

Miller, though, has been oddly absent from the hoopla. Sattler did not single him out during his visit. In fact, Miller only heard about it from the two Los Angeles Times staffers embedded with his unit. He seemed incredulous. "A picture?" he asked. "What's the fuss?"

The photo was taken on the afternoon after Company C's harrowing entry into Fallujah under intense enemy fire, in the cold

and rain. Miller was on the roof of a home where he and his fellow First Platoon members had spent the day engaged in practically nonstop firefighting, fending off snipers and attackers who rushed the building. No one had slept in more than 24 hours. All were physically and emotionally drained.

In person, Miller is unassuming of medium height, his face slightly pimpled, his teeth a little crooked. He takes his share of small-town hick ribbing from a unit that includes Marines from big cities as well as small towns.

And it has only increased as word of the platoon radio man's instant fame has spread among his mates.

"Miller, when you get home you'll be a hero," Cpl. Mark Waller, 21, from Okla., said Friday. "They'll put out a big sign: 'Welcome home, Marlboro Man.'"

Miller is now obliged to provide smokes to just about anyone who asks. It's just about wiped out his stash in a town where Marlboro isn't available just yet.

Even in the Marines, where smoking is widespread, the extent of Miller's habit has raised eyebrows.

"I tried to get him to stop — the cigarettes will kill him before the war," says Navy Corpsman Anthony Lopez, a company medic. "I get on him all the time. But his guy is a true Marlboro man."

P.J. Huffstutter of the Los Angeles Times also contributed to this story in Chicago.

Troops have a nasty, dirty enemy lurking among them

926th Medical Detachment reminds servicemembers how to keep clean and healthy while deployed in Iraq

By RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — The enemy is relentless. The battle is never ending.

A team of soldiers must never quit, never give in. To do so would be to endanger the health of their comrades.

That's why the preventive medicine troops with the 926th Medical Detachment, part of the 44th Medical Command out of Fort Benning, Ga., keep their collective eyes on the health records of soldiers, searching for any evidence that the message they spread is not being heard.

Reaching troops in a war zone about such things as flossing their teeth or changing their socks is a constant struggle.

"It has been forever and it probably will be forever," said Sgt. 1st Class Cheryl Fowkes.

Soldiers worried about roadside bombs and mortar attacks and other nasty threats to their lives may think such mundane chores are more of a bother than a duty. But the preventive medicine folks said lack of proper handwashing, for example, can devastate a unit as easily as enemy bullets.

In wartime, Fowkes said, nonbattle injuries cause more casualties than combat.

That's why detachment members provide classes on personal hygiene issues, teaching a few soldiers who take the information back to their units. Those troops are known as field sanitation units.

"We have to have these soldiers out there to be our eyes and ears," Fowkes said.

In a recent class, for example, the emphasis was on changing toothbrushes after the old one gets worn out. The limp bristles can't clean in between teeth. The teeth can become decayed. The resulting toothache could result in a soldier missing duty.

"Handwashing is at an ultimate low," Sgt. Arvey Jones said.

Handwashing stations are ubiquitous at this base, which is home to 23,000 military members and civilians. Yet troops walk past them without stopping, time after time, Jones said.

"They try to push on too fast," he said.

Dirty hands can pass germs from one person to the next. An outbreak of diarrhea can result, which can incapacitate soldiers in the field.

Soldiers, too, tend to skip showers while on a base such as I-54 Anaconda, Spc. Neema Nicholas said. They might have to walk 75 yards to a shower and, for the

time being, at least, that means wrapping up in a flak vest and strapping on a helmet to protect against the frequent mortar and rocket attacks.

"Some soldiers tend to just pass it off," she said. Instead of showering once a day as suggested, they may do so only every third day, she said.

Modern armies still require foot power, so troops are reminded to change socks. Alternate pairs of combat boots so they can dry out. Use foot powder. Soldiers with unhealthy feet aren't mission-ready.

Capt. Robert Moore, an entomologist, said the desert has critters other than humans that can cause harm.

"I'll get calls [from the hospital] about people coming in with bug bites," he said.

During the spring, the infestation of sand flies left some troops covered with hundreds and hundreds of bites.

That can be prevented, too, Moore said, with a Department of Defense repellent system in skin and uniforms. But, he said, soldiers are reluctant to use it.

"There are a lot of myths that it will cause cancer, give you Gulf War syndrome," he said.

None of that is true, Moore said, but it is a challenge to convince people.



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Joseph Porter of the 512th Transportation Company washes his hands before eating at a dining facility on Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Iraq. Improper handwashing can speed the spread of disease, soldiers from the 926th Medical Detachment said.

Plus, he said, wearing the uniform properly — sleeves rolled down and buttoned, pants legs tucked in boots — will prevent many bug bites.

The preventive medicine team members, attached to the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion, are on constant watch for their enemy. The hospital provides a disease and nonbattle-injury re-

sult each day. They scan it for evidence that the message is getting lost in the sound of war, looking for such things as a spike in upper respiratory complaints or stomach ailments.

It is a battle against an enemy that can be thwarted easier than one that uses guns and car bombs to do their damage. But the preventive medicine team needs help.

'I had to go leftie, but I was still fighting'

3rd Battalion, 1st Marines show mettle while pushing way into Fallujah

BY JACKIE SPINNER
The Washington Post

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — His first night in the city, Sgt. Aristod Barboza slept uneasily on the floor near the door of a vacant house that his Marine unit had taken over. A squad leader in the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, Barboza had been prepared for the worst when U.S. and Iraqi forces began storming into Fallujah on Monday night.

Instead, the slight 26-year-old from Southern California was surprised to find rebel fighters in the city putting up little resistance. By Thursday night, U.S. troops had taken control of the northern half of Fallujah, which lies about 35 miles west of Baghdad, and Barboza was feeling optimistic about the battle when he woke up Friday. He decided not to shave, figuring things would be over soon enough. "I'm thinking and hoping that it's not that bad," he recalled.

But for many Marine and Army units, the battle for Fallujah was only beginning. Barboza and his squad set off on foot at 7:40 a.m. Friday following a slow-moving column of Marine infantrymen heading east just below the main highway that divides northern and southern Fallujah.

As he trudged through the soot, rubble-filled street, Barboza said he remembered thinking how bad the city looked, worse than he had imagined. "Basically every house has a hole through it," he said. Then unease hit again. "All the squad leaders and myself, we knew when we got to the south, we were going to get pounded."

As they began the turn to the south, gunfire burst from a mosque in front of them. Another platoon began shooting back, and Barboza led his squad around to the side. "The whole company kept pushing, and we started getting hit from the other side of the street," he said.

Gunfire tore through an aluminum gate when the squad passed a house. Barboza said he felt a sting in his right bicep. He had been shot. Two other members of his squad were wounded within minutes of each other, including Lance Cpl. Matthew Vetter, 21, who was hit in the lower back just under his flak jacket.

"It was like a whole block of insurgents," Barboza said Saturday while recuperating with Vetter in a Navy field hospital at a military outpost near the city. "They started throwing grenades at us. It was like a shock. I couldn't believe I got hurt. I went two more blocks. I couldn't believe it." It was 12:30 p.m.

Barboza found his gunnery sergeant, who ordered him back to a medical vehicle that the Marines call the "track" or the "Big Bus."

"I thought they were going to get me out of there," Barboza said. "But we kept pushing. I could still fight. I had to go leftie, but I was still fighting."

Meanwhile, Vetter felt his face, as blood trickling down it after shrapnel sliced into his skin. "I thought it was just my face," he said, until he felt the pain in his back. "I



Left: A Marine aims his weapon Saturday after coming under attack in the western part of Fallujah, Iraq. A U.S. official said Sunday the battle into the city had so far claimed the lives of 31 U.S. troops and six Iraqi soldiers.

Below: A Marine of the 1st Division carries a mascot for good luck in his backpack as his unit pushed farther into the western part of Fallujah on Sunday. U.S. military officials said U.S. troops had now "occupied" the entire city of Fallujah.

AP photos

started to run," he said. "But it was difficult. We just kept making our way to the track. The hatch opened, and I jumped in. I gave out all my ammo. They took my flak and Kevlar. The doc had me lay down in the center and pulled out some shrapnel."

Inside the medical vehicle, Vetter said he could hear the shooting.

"I'm there without my flak or helmet. You hear the shooting going on," he said. He was afraid.

The column of Marines kept moving, with Vetter riding in the medical vehicle and Barboza continuing on foot. Barboza said the unit had to keep moving so the airpower could come in behind them and clear the houses from which they insured themselves were shooting.

"There wasn't one house that didn't have weapons," Barboza said.

Every house had at least one rocket-propelled grenade and a couple of hand grenades, he said.

"They were very prepared," Vetter said, as he and Barboza sat next to each other on a green cot in the overflow medical ward at the field hospital.

"Like they were waiting for us," Barboza said. "They were waiting for us."

As he walked along the street, Barboza said he had to step gingerly around daisy-chained improvised explosive devices.

About an hour later, Barboza and Vetter found themselves in a large, vacant residence not far from the scene of the gun battle. Iraqi special forces assigned to their unit found some rice and vegetables and made lunch. The Marines were nursing their wounds and eating hot chow when an explosion detonated nearby, shattering the windows and flicking shards of glass in the food.

It was 1:45 p.m.



Five hours later, Barboza and Vetter made it out of the city, to a staging area for troops. They were taken to the military hospital, where they were watching a movie Saturday afternoon and waiting to be transferred back to their unit.

Barboza, twirling a cigarette lighter in his hand, planned to get back into the fight. Vetter, who said he could squeeze shrapnel out of his facial wounds, would not be able to return just yet.

"You know it could happen to you, but you really don't think it will still happen," Vetter said, looking at the TV screen. "I'm just glad I was part of it. I was glad I got to fight

with these guys. It had to be done. We were really fighting. We were doing great. It doesn't stop us. We'll keep going."

Barboza said even when the offensive is officially over, his squad plans to remain in the city to keep the peace. He expects things may get worse then, particularly if the artillery and mechanized infantry move out.

"We're not going to kill everyone, and they're not all going to surrender," he said. "I know that a lot of them left. They'll want for things to calm down, and they come back. They always do."

So will be, Barboza said, taking a swig of juice from the box in his hand.

Iraq's neighbors to meet

TEHRAN, Iran — Interior ministers of Iraq's neighboring states plus Egypt are to convene for a two-day meeting in Tehran on Nov. 30, Iraqi officials news agency reported Saturday.

Such a meeting was agreed to in July, but no date was set. The ministers are expected to be accompanied by senior security officials who can share intelligence on militants and other people suspected of

being linked to the insurgency in Iraq. Egypt and Syria have said their interior ministers will attend, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Analysts say Iran hopes that by hosting the meeting, it will send a signal, particularly to the United States, that it recognizes the threat the al-Qaida terror group poses both to Iraq and to itself. Al-Qaida, which is led by Osama bin Laden, has strong ties to the major Iraqi insurgency group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Protests in Baqouba

BAQOUBA, Iraq — Hundreds of protesters marched Sunday in a central Iraqi town to protest the massive U.S. offensive against the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah and denounced the country's interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

The rally in Buzhr, 25 miles northeast of Baghdad, took place after the morning prayers marking Eid, the end of the month-long Ramadan period of fasting.

The town was a former Saddam stronghold.

Associated Press Television News footage showed some armed men, heads covered with black hoods and brandishing Kalashnikov rifles, among the marchers.

The demonstrators carried banners calling Allawi a "thug" and "traitor."

"Allawi, Fallujah will be your tomb," some chanted. "You are a coward, an American agent."

From The Associated Press

Fulfilling his dream 'in 500 difficult steps'

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — "Jack Slayton stood in the shadows of the Forrester Building, nervously anticipating his clandestine meeting with the wife of the President of the United States. Slayton, a former member of the National Security Council staff, was no longer welcome at the White House."

And so begins a 335-page novel first penned by James Scott almost 20 years ago.

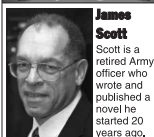
Actually, that's when Scott began his novel.

And if his fiction is filled with suspense and cloak-and-dagger intrigue, the real-life story of his book — only now rolling off the presses — is just as much a tale of can-do grit and never-give-up fortitude.

Scott's tale begins where still-lingering questions over the Reagan-era Iran-Contra scandal leave off.

A lieutenant colonel in the Army as the conspiracy unraveled in 1987, Scott had closely followed the controversy surrounding White House military aide Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North. North was behind a conspiracy to sell arms to the Iranians in order to leverage their influence in freeing U.S. hostages in Lebanon. Opponents of the sales were illegal-

Stripes Spotlight



James Scott
Scott is a retired Army officer who wrote and published a novel he started 20 years ago.

Age: 66

Family: Wife, Ophelia Philips Scott

Hometown: Baltimore

Hobbies: Downhill skiing, reading, sailing

Stars and Stripes

ly going to fund Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

"I was reading everything that came out on Iran-Contra and so much of it didn't add up," said Scott. "There were just so many contradictions."

North, for example, under a guarantee of immunity, had admitted shredding all of his White House files on the scheme, yet — strangely — some files implicating him reappeared.

"So, I started to think what

would make it all make sense," said Scott. It wasn't long before Scott's made-up musings of a might-be conspiracy behind the conspiracy were taking form. Linking his own unanswered questions on the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam, where he'd served with the 101st Airborne Division, Scott thought to himself, "Hey, this would make a great book!"

Indeed, if truth is sometimes stranger than fiction, Scott's hypothetical account of the hidden reasons behind the scandal is no less intriguing.

But ideas for books and finished manuscripts are two different things.

Scott, who grew up in Goodwill hand-me-downs and was raised largely by his grandmother, joined the Army as a private. Working hard for his degree and rising up through the Army ranks to field grade officer, he wasn't one to be intimidated.

Slowly, over the ensuing years, Scott's tale took shape as he crafted his book through his own retirement from the Army and into his new career as a teacher.

"Finally, my wife said, 'You should just take a year off and finish the doggone thing,'" said Scott.

And so he did. By the end of 1990, he was typing the words



Author and retired U.S. Army officer James Scott speaks to Heidelberg High School students in Germany about the lessons he learned while writing and publishing his own book — and the importance of never giving up.

JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

"The End." The title of his manuscript: "The Iran-Contra-contradictions."

"As it turned out, writing it was the easy part," he said.

"I went the conventional route and found an agent to help me shop my book around," said Scott. Three agents and several years later, however, Scott's book still hadn't been picked up by a publisher.

There had been plenty of encouragement, though. His manuscript had made its way to final selection rounds at two major publishing houses.

The book was great, editors said, not quite what they were looking for.

"It was really disappointing to get that close," he said, "but then I realized that I had played in the Super Bowl, but just didn't win."

Meanwhile, Scott was finding support from friends and strangers alike.

An American book club in Germany liked his manuscript so much, 11 supporters wrote a letter to TV talk show host book club promoter Oprah Winfrey singing its praises.

"You really do become discouraged after a while," Scott said. "But it seemed like every time I was about to give up, something would happen or someone would come along to give me the encouragement I needed. It felt like either God wants this to be a success or he was playing a terrible joke on me."

Perhaps one of his biggest boosts came from former Sen. and Secretary of Defense William Cohen. Scott had sent Cohen, who was also an Iran-Contra investigator, a copy of the manuscript to review. Cohen declared the novel a

"page-turner" and congratulated Scott "on a job well done."

"I knew it was a good book because people kept telling me it was," said Scott. "So, I decided to just publish it myself."

While he is quick to concede "there is a certain amount of snobbery in the publishing world about self-published books," Scott said he finds inspiration from authors as wide-ranging as Stephen King to Mark Twain, among others, who got their start printing their own works.

In addition to setting up his own publishing corporation, Scott designed the book jacket and found a printer himself. He even taught himself the laborious layout process so he could set the typeface himself.

"It's been 'Author to Publisher in 500 Difficult Steps,'" said Scott, laughing at the book he might write on writing a book. But there's no denying the pride he feels.

"I did everything, so when I say this is my book, this really is my book," he said.

"He's inspirational," said Debra Knudsen, a Heidelberg High School teacher who recently invited Scott to speak to her college prep classes. "He's got a kind of strength-through-life story. He's a role model."

Scott is now in negotiations with retailers — Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Bookmark among them — to distribute the initial 3,000 copies of "The Iran-Contra-contradictions."

"This has always been my dream. I made myself a promise not to get to be 80 years old and wonder what would have happened if I had just taken my shot."

"So, we'll see if I hit the target."

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: anderson@mail.estrates.osd.mil



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The rise and fall of a powerful AE broker

Trial records, experts give clues to former weapons buyer's descent from grace

BY RENAE MERLE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the macho world of the Pentagon, Darleen Druyun was rare: a woman who had scaled the heights of power, controlled billions of dollars in weapons programs and could punish or reward global corporations and the men who ran them.

Once the most feared woman in the world of military contracting, Druyun, 47, helped draft the Air Force's \$30 billion procurement budget — nearly three times the size of the Army's.

She was at the peak of her power as a top Air Force weapons buyer in 1999 when she scolded leaders of Lockheed Martin Corp., the world's largest defense contractor, for some of its work on satellites and rockets. Her tone was blunt: "One program had 'pitiful' software and a company proposal had a 'crappy design.' The incident contributed to the early retirement of one Lockheed executive and the company rushed to address Druyun's concerns, according to several people familiar with the situation.

But now it is Druyun who has fallen from grace. In April, she pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge for negotiating for a job with Boeing Co. while still supervising the company's work for the Air Force. Last month she stunned military and industry leaders by admitting that she gave Boeing preferential treatment for years before taking a job with the company.

The Pentagon announced last week that because of Druyun's illegal behavior it has begun investigations into all of her contracting-related actions during her nine years as the Air Force's deputy acquisition chief. The Defense Department also began the rarest review of how it buys weapons since the 1980s of influence peddling in the investigations known as Operation Ill Wind. The fall-out could cost the government hundreds of millions of dollars as companies unfairly ruled out of contracts seek restitution for the costs they incurred during the bidding process.

Since she was sentenced to nine months in prison, a portrait of Druyun has emerged from court papers and interviews with her associates of a woman who acquired power beyond her status at the Air Force then walked over subordinates, humbled industry executives and sought personal advantage at government expense.

Druyun is an imposing figure with a sharp — and sometimes vulgar — tongue,



LINDA LABONTE BRITT/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Capt. Anh Le, center, force protection system program officer at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., shows a computer system to Darleen Druyun, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition and management, in September 2002. Druyun took a job at Boeing two months later, a position she negotiated while still at the Pentagon.

who was right at home in the male-dominated Pentagon world. Her renown as a tough government negotiator and stickler for the rules encouraged her superiors to rely on her judgment, according to industry insiders. For nearly 40 percent of her time at the Pentagon she had no supervisor at all. Her rise to power coincided with a government-wide push to build closer relationships with contractors as partners.

"I was surprised that someone who was around (during the Ill Wind investigation) would be in essence doing the same things that Ill Wind was all about," said Joseph Aronica, the lead prosecutor in that investigation, now a lawyer with Duane Morris LLP. "I guess these things in a way are cyclical. She may have thought no one was looking any more."

Druyun did not respond to letters and could not be reached by telephone to comment on this article. Her lawyer, through his secretary, declined to comment.

Druyun began her career in government work in 1970 when she landed a job as an Air Force contractor negotiator at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center in Georgia. For the next 20 years, she bounced between the Air Force, the Office of Management and Budget and NASA (before being named the Air Force's deputy acquisition chief, a position she would hold until her retirement in November 2002).

Druyun reinvented herself as a reformer, developing "Lightning Bolt" initiatives that aimed to make Air Force weapons procurement more efficient and stressed the importance of a company's past performance in awarding new contracts. The Air Force said the program saved \$20 billion.

The fortunes of defense contractors rested on Druyun's decisions on competitors, her policy decisions and her awards of bonuses. In 1999, she emerged as the Pentagon's top advocate of the F/A-22, a boon to Lockheed's fighter jet's manufacturer. In 2001, Druyun eliminated Raytheon Co. from a \$2.5 billion competition to build the small-diameter bomb, surprising industry handcarriers and realigning the competitive landscape.

An official at Druyun's level would not normally decide the outcome of as many competitions as she did or get involved in the nitty-gritty of contract negotiations, according to people in the industry. Those tasks were left to underlings who made the decisions themselves or offered their recommendations. "Once in a blue moon there will be a mess where you can't resolve an issue and the issue will float up the chain of command," said John Douglas, the former assistant Navy secretary for research, development and acquisition.

The power creep did not escape the notice of her superiors. In one or two cases, "I was surprised she was getting involved, but they were large (contracts) and... she was a hands-on kind of person," said Jacques Gansler, the Pentagon's acquisition chief from 1997 to 2001. "People above and around her in the Air Force should have been overseeing her."

Gradually, Druyun's allegiances began

to shift as her personal and professional lives became entangled. When her daughter's fiancé, Michael McKee, was looking for a job in 2000, she contacted a longtime Boeing associate, Michael Sears, the company's chief financial officer, for help, according to court records. McKee was hired for a position in St. Louis. Druyun also helped her daughter, Heather, land a job at Boeing two months later — a position created for her, the records show.

After years fostering a reputation as the defense contractors' toughest adversary, Druyun felt indebted to Boeing. She then made a series of decisions that were rooted in her sense of gratitude, she told the court.

In 2000, she agreed to increase the size of a Boeing contract for C-17 transport planes by \$412 million. Two years later, she restructured the company's program to modernize 18 NATO planes used as airborne command posts, and approved a \$100 million payment.

In 2001, Druyun picked Boeing over Lockheed to upgrade the avionics on C-130 transport planes. The decision stunned industry analysts because Lockheed had built the planes and was considered the most probable choice to modernize them. Industry analysts pointed to the competition as proof that Boeing's strategy to apply commercial technology to the military sector was working and that Lockheed was failing to capture the Air Force's imagination.

In 2002, Druyun accepted a position at Boeing as a vice president. She had barely moved in when she became the center of controversy again.

In her final months at the Pentagon, Druyun was the chief negotiator of a \$20 billion program to lease, then purchase, Boeing 767s converted into refueling tankers. The proposal had attracted the attention of the Senate Commerce Committee chairman, John McCain, R-Ariz., who called the proposal a welfare program for Boeing.

Critics said it was more than a coincidence that Druyun, the chief Air Force negotiator, would take a \$250,000-a-year job with Boeing.

The firm found that employment talks had occurred while Druyun was overseeing Boeing contracts — a violation of federal law. Druyun was fired and pleaded guilty, sparing prosecution for her daughter, who was named as an unindicted co-conspirator. Sears, who negotiated Druyun's employment, is scheduled to plead guilty on Monday.

Druyun would still not reveal the entire truth for several months — and only then after failing two polygraph tests. After initially admitting only to a technical violation in holding improper employment discussions — "I was not knowledgeable of preferential treatment of Boeing. She agreed to a higher price on the tanker deal as a 'parting gift' to the firm, she told the court.

"Getting to the truth of matters can sometimes be difficult," Druyun's lawyer, John Dowd, told the judge before she was sentenced. "There is no denying (Darleen) made a serious mistake and there is no denying she had difficulty coming to grips with certain matters."

2 melaneloads of GIs brought to Germany hospital

The Associated Press

RAMSTEIN, Germany — More than 70 U.S. soldiers from Iraq were flown Saturday to a military hospital in Germany, most of them wounded in battle for Fallujah, officials said.

The 73 men were sent to the U.S. military's Landstuhl Regional

Medical Center pushed the number of arrivals this week to 412, nearly all injured in Fallujah, hospital spokeswoman Marie Shaw said. The number of beds at the hospital in rural western Germany has been increased to handle the wounded.

"This is more than we usually

get," said Erin Zagursky, a spokeswoman at the U.S. Air Force's Ramstein hospital.

U.S. and Iraqi forces launched a ground assault for Fallujah late Monday after the city's clerical leadership refused to hand over insurgents, including Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Military officials could not provide an exact number of wounded from Fallujah or the nature of their injuries. But Zagursky said 90 percent of Saturday's arrivals were Army soldiers and Marines.

Landstuhl is the biggest U.S. military hospital overseas, and its doctors also treat soldiers with

non-combat injuries and illnesses. It usually treats between 30 and 50 injured military personnel per day.

A C-141 transport brought the 60 latest patients from Balad, 50 miles north of Fallujah, to Ramstein on Saturday morning.

Twenty-five of the patients had to be carried off on stretchers.

IN THE STATES

Cheney's breathing problems due to cold

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney, back home after a brief hospital visit, has nothing more than a bad cold and his heart is fine, his wife and an adviser said Sunday.

Also doing well is former President Clinton, who had heart surgery in September, a former aide said.

Cheney, who has had four heart attacks, had three hours of tests Saturday after experiencing shortness of breath.

They showed no problems with his heart — “none whatsoever,” said Mary Malin, a former top White House aide to the 63-year-old vice president.

Cheney's most recent heart attack was in November 2000, just before he assumed the vice presidency.

He had a pacemaker implanted in his chest in June 2001.

Malin, who has acted as Cheney's spokeswoman this weekend, said he was just following the orders of his “very cautious” doctors who recommended that he have tests at the hospital. Cheney returned Thursday night from a pheasant hunting trip in South Dakota with a cold that left him short of breath.

She said on NBC's “Meet the Press” that Cheney should serve as “an inspiration to people with heart disease that you can lead such a productive and constructive life.”



Vice President Dick Cheney, left, waves as he and his wife Lynne leave the Washington University Hospital in Washington, Saturday. Cheney spent the afternoon at the hospital after experiencing shortness of breath.

She noted the vice president's heavy travel schedule during the presidential campaign, saying Cheney attended more than 280 events.

“It was a remarkable schedule,” she said.

“The long and the short is, the vice president had a cold like everybody else did on his plane.”

Lynne Cheney, the vice president's wife, said the entire family has had a bad cough and cold.

On Sunday, the vice president

was resting, drinking lots of fluids and generally taking it easy — “doing everything you're supposed to do when you have a cold” — but planned to show up for work on Monday, she told CNN's “Late Edition.”

On another subject, she said her husband's off-reported statements that he does not plan to make his own run for the White House in 2008 were “ironclad, concrete.”

President Bush, at services at

St. John's Church across the street from the White House, heard the minister offer prayers for Cheney.

As for the 58-year-old Clinton, he has lost some weight since quadruple bypass surgery Sept. 6 and gets tired at night, said Democratic strategist and former top aide James Carville.

But that is to be expected and he pronounced Clinton “ready to go — he's rolling,” said Carville, who appeared on NBC with Malin, his wife.

Process to fill veep seat

BY LISA GETTER

The Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Given Vice President Dick Cheney's long history of heart trouble, even his brief trip to the hospital Saturday after suffering shortness of breath, raised questions about what would happen if he were forced to step aside for health reasons.

Under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, President Bush would nominate a replacement who would have to be confirmed by both the House and Senate.

There is no timetable for selecting a replacement. “It's as fast as the public process will allow it to be,” said Timothy Walsh, director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and the editor of “At the President's Side: The Vice Presidency in the 21st Century.” If something were to happen to Bush before a vice president was confirmed, the next in line to succeed him would be Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert.

President Nixon appointed Gerald Ford in 1974 to replace Vice President Spiro T. Agnew. When Nixon resigned during the Watergate scandal in 1974, Ford assumed the presidency. The House would select a successor to fill the No. 2 spot.

Death-row sentencing drops to lowest level in decades

BY LAURA MECKLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of people sentenced to death reached a 30-year low in 2003, when the death row population fell for the third year in a row, the government reported Sunday.

Some 144 inmates in 25 states were given the death penalty last year, a 24 percent drop in 2002 and less than half the average of 297 between 1994 and 2000, according to the Justice Department.

Death penalty opponents say the report shows how wary the public is of executions, heightened by concerns about whether the punishment is administered fairly and publicly about those wrongly convicted. Illinois emptied its death row in 2003 after several inmates were found to be innocent.

“What we're seeing is hesitation on the death penalty, skepticism, reluctance,” said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center. “I do think there is some concern about the death penalty and it's reflected in death sentences from juries.”

Opponents also point to other possible reasons, including continuing fallout from Supreme Court decisions requiring that juries be told that life in prison without parole is an alternative to death.

Dieter said 47 states now offer a life-without-parole sentence as an option for at least some convictions, compared with 30 in 1993.

Supporters doubt the decline signifies a major shift in public opinion about the death penalty, which is in effect in 38 states and the federal justice system.

“I don't think the numbers mean a lot quite frankly,” said Dianne Clements, president of the victims advocacy

group Justice For All. “I don't think it means a change in death penalty attitudes. I think it means the numbers change.”

At the end of last year, 3,374 prisoners awaiting execution, 188 fewer than in 2002, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Illinois accounted for 84 percent of the decline, the result of then-Gov. George Ryan's decision to remove 157 inmates from death row.

Nationally, 267 people were removed from death row last year. That was the largest drop since 1976, when the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty, according to the report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Some 65 people, all men, were executed last year. Texas again was the leader, with 24, followed by Oklahoma with 14 and North Carolina with 7. No other state had more than three.

All but one of those men were killed by lethal injection. The other was electrocuted.

Terror experts say U.S. still a target of al-Qaida during holidays

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government counterterrorism experts say the threat of an attack by al-Qaida remains a significant concern, perhaps even this year, although the nation soon will exceed the benchmark of the Nov. 2 election.

The Homeland Security Department this week lowered the terror alert for the financial sector in New York, Washington and northern New Jersey that was in place

for three months. But authorities still caution the possibility of an attack is just as high as it was a month ago.

“The whole notion taking a deep breath and saying, ‘Wow, we got past this and now we are OK for a while’ is a ... very dangerous train of thought,” Homeland Security Deputy Secretary James Loy told reporters in a conference call Wednesday.

Since April, U.S. authorities have warned of an increased risk of attack to disrupt democracy, often pointing to the now-passed elections. But they remain con-

cerned about the upcoming holidays, the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration and beyond. Loy said the time period does not have a termination date.

He said a relaxed posture for financial institutions — from code orange, or heightened, to code yellow, or elevated — came because government and private-sector officials had run drills, improved security and taken other measures to “harden” the potential targets. The passing of the election, too, was on the minds of authorities.

Now, counterterrorism officials are analyzing why al-Qaida may not have attacked and what may be ahead.

In a recent analysis, Ben Venzke, president of the private IntelCenter and a consultant to government counterterrorism agencies, said two bin Laden videos directly addressed Americans in October 2002 and 2003 — were followed between one and 53 days by attacks. Bin Laden's most recent message turned up Oct. 29.

However, Venzke said he was particularly concerned about an attack directly against U.S. interests now because the new tapes represent “the most significant effort by al-Qaida to address the American people in the last couple years.”

Rapper O.D.B. found dead in studio at 35

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The rap artist O.D.B., whose utterly unique rhymes, wild lifestyle and incessant legal troubles made him one of the most vivid characters in hip-hop, collapsed and died inside a recording studio Saturday. He was 35.

O.D.B. had complained of chest pains before collapsing at the Manhattan

studio, and was dead by the time paramedics arrived, said Gabe Tesoriere, a spokesman for O.D.B.'s record label, Roc-A-Fella.

The cause of death was not immediately clear, but O.D.B. had recently finished a prison sentence for drug possession and escaping a rehab clinic. He would have turned 36 on Monday.



Jones

O.D.B. — also known as O' Dirty Bastard, Dirt McGirt, Big Baby Jesus or his legal name of Russell Jones — was a founding member of the seminal rap group the Wu-Tang Clan in the early 1990s. With his unorthodox delivery — alternately slurred, hyper and nonsensical — O.D.B. stood out even in the nine-man Clan, which featured such future stars as Method Man, RZA and Ghostface Killah.

The Wu-Tang blueprint was for each member to pursue solo projects, and O.D.B.'s were among the best. He released hit singles such as "Shimmy Shimmy Ya" and "Got Your Money," and appeared on remixes with artists such as Mariah Carey.

"There's nobody like him in the game," RZA said in an April interview, when asked if O.D.B. could resume his career after prison. "He's got a lot of problems he's got to iron out, of course, but as far as a one-of-a-kind person, a one-of-a-kind artist, he's one of a generation, one of a lifetime. He's a very rare commodity."

But as his fame increased, so



O.D.B., O' Dirty Bastard of the Wu Tang Clan, whose legal name is Russell Jones, takes the stage unannounced on Feb. 25, 1998, at the Grammy Awards in New York. The rapper collapsed and died inside his studio on Saturday, according to his record label.

did his erratic behavior, and fans came to expect the unexpected from O.D.B.

When MTV News followed him

around at the height of his popularity, he took the camera crew and several of his kids to the welfare office — in a limousine — to

get an allotment of food stamps. And he received them.

Over the years, he was wounded in shootings and arrested on a veritable laundry list of charges, including menacing security officers, illegally possessing body armor, driving with a suspended license, shoplifting and threatening a former girlfriend.

In 2000, after escaping a court-ordered stint in a California rehabilitation center, authorities searched for him for a month. He was finally arrested in Philadelphia — three days after performing in a New York City concert with his Wu-Tang clique.

He was sentenced in 2001 to two to four years in prison for drug possession, plus two concurrent years for escaping from the clinic.

He was released in 2003 and immediately signed with Roc-A-Fella.

"Russell inspired all of us with his spirit, wit, and tremendous heart," Roc-A-Fella founder Damon Dash said in a statement. "The world has lost a great talent, but we mourn the loss of our friend."



Hunting guide Chris Griffin, at right, pretends to be a victim of the legendary "Hogzilla" during the annual town festival on Saturday in Alapaha, Ga., while children and adults ride on the float.

Town honors 'Hogzilla' with annual festival

BY ELLIOTT MINOR
The Associated Press

ALAPAHA, Ga. — Residents of this small farming town gathered Saturday to celebrate "Hogzilla," a 12-foot-long wild pig that was supposedly shot by a hunting guide last summer and quickly grew into a worldwide legend.

The festival comes five months after the 1,000-pound hog was killed when it wandered out of swamps along the nearby Alapaha River, a haven for swine that escape pig farms and start living off the land.

The prodigious porker was remembered with a hog-calling contest and a greased-pig chase, as well as a float featuring a life-size replica of Hogzilla.

"Everybody is happy, smiling,

excited. We're going hog wild," said Becky Davis, an organizer of an annual community gala that was held this year with a Hogzilla theme.

The hairy heavyweight supposedly measured 12 feet with 9-inch tusks, said Ken Holyoak, owner of the hunting plantation where the hog was killed near Alapaha, about 180 miles southeast of Atlanta.

But few have actually seen Hogzilla. Holyoak's only proof is a photo showing the guide with the beast dangling from a rope.

Holyoak says Hogzilla was too old to butcher and too big to mount, so he buried the carcass in a grave marked by a white cross.

Festival organizers were initially skeptical of adopting a theme that confirmed Hogzilla's exist-

ence, so they chose to focus on the Hogzilla legend.

Holyoak said he has been interviewed by 200 newspapers and at least 24 television stations, as well as numerous radio broadcasts.

"It's been on the radio from Canada to Russia," he said. "I didn't know people would go that crazy over a hog."

The legend has propelled Chris Griffin, the guide who supposedly shot Hogzilla in June, from relative obscurity to celebrity status.

"They ask for my autograph," he said. "I've gotten used to it, but before it kind of freaked me out. I wasn't used to that much attention."

Asked if there could be more giant hogs in the swamps — perhaps a Hogzilla heir — Holyoak replied: "If there's one, there's a possibility of more."

Rod Stewart ordered to pay for nixed tour

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Singer Rod Stewart may repay the \$780,000 he accepted as a deposit for a Latin American concert tour that was canceled, a jury told Friday.

The jury also assessed damages of \$1.6 million against Stewart's lawyers and agents at the ICM talent agency for their roles in negotiating a contract for the tour.

"The message that is sent I hope is that big players in the media cannot treat little players with arrogance and greed and get away with it," said Dennis Holahan, a lawyer who represented

music tour operators from Peru, Argentina and Colombia.

The contract called for Stewart, 59, to be paid \$2.1 million in advance for nine concerts in Central and South America that would start in February 2002. The document was not signed by promoter Howard Pollack, although he e-mailed he would do so.

About \$780,000 of the advance was paid before Stewart's associates canceled the tour in mid-January 2002; the money was not returned. Pollack and two other promoters sued.

"These men and their companies were ruined by this," Holahan said. "This is going to restore their credibility and personal reputations."

Lawyer sues 'Law & Order'

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A New York City lawyer sued the producers of the television show "Law & Order" for \$15 million Friday, claiming that they defamed him by portraying him as a crooked attorney in one of the show's episodes.

Ravi Batra, who has Manhattan offices but is well-known in Brooklyn legal and political circles, said the "ripped from the headlines" episode entitled "Floater" maliciously inflicted emotional, economic and professional injury on him.

The episode initially focuses on the husband of a woman whose decomposed body is found floating in the Hudson River. Detectives investigate the husband's

alibi and find a corruption scandal at the courthouse where the wife worked. The scandal includes her divorce lawyer and a judge who has heard a suspiciously large number of the lawyer's cases.

Investigations by the Brooklyn district attorney's office have resulted in arrests for the alleged fixing of matrimonial cases by judges and lawyers, and for the alleged sale of constabularies and appointments to judgeships.

Batra is a former law firm associate of Assemblyman Clarence Norman, chairman of the Brooklyn Democratic Party. Norman was indicted in November 2003 along with another party official on charges that they pressured judges to hire favored consultants.

IN THE WORLD

Palestinians set January date for elections

By JAMIE TARABAY
The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian officials pushed forward with plans for life without Yasser Arafat, setting Jan. 9 as the date for elections to replace their longtime leader, but for the first time since Arafat's death, internal Palestinian violence hit Gaza.

Gunmen firing rifles burst into a mourning tent set up for Yasser Arafat after his successor as head of the PLO, Mahmoud Abbas, arrived at nightfall Sunday. Two security guards were killed and six other people were wounded, officials said, but Abbas was unharmed. Security officers hustled him away.

Suleiman Mahdi, a Palestinian authority driver, said Abbas was shaking hands with visitors when the gunfire erupted. He said security officers immediately surrounded Abbas. "They took him to a safe place then he managed to get out of the area," he said.

Associated Press Television News pictures showed a group of about 20 men entering the mourning tent where Abbas, Gaza strongman Mohammed Dahlan



Bodyguards take away Mahmoud Abbas, former Palestinian prime minister and the Yasser Arafat's successor as PLO chief, after gunfire erupted at the tent set up for mourners to gather in memory of Arafat in Gaza city on Sunday. Two security guards were killed.

and other key Palestinian leaders had come to mourn for Arafat. The gunmen, clad in green, shouted "Abbas and Dahlan are agents for the Americans."

Gunfire then popped through the tent. Abbas' bodyguards hustled him into a corner as frightened mourners scrambled over plastic chairs to flee.

It was not immediately known who the gunmen were, but Dahlan denied that the incident was an attempt to assassinate him or Abbas.

The presidential elections are a key test for the Palestinians, who hope a smooth transition of power will encourage renewed interna-

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tional involvement in Mideast peacekeeping. Arafat, who died Thursday, led the Palestinians for four decades and refused to appoint a successor.

Abbas is widely expected to run in the presidential elections, which must be held within 60 days of Arafat's death. In the meantime, Parliament Speaker Rauli Fattouh has been sworn in as the caretaker president of the Palestinian Authority, which governs Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

One point of dispute emerged immediately: whether Arab residents in east Jerusalem should be able to take part. Some Israelis fear that allowing the city's 228,000 Arab residents to vote in a such a ballot would strengthen Palestinian claims to the city.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his Cabinet on Sunday that he won't rule out the possibility of allowing Palestinians living in east Jerusalem to vote, meeting participants said.

French official: Arafat did not die of poisoning

The Associated Press

PARIS — France's health minister said Sunday there was no reason to suspect Yasser Arafat was poisoned because French legal authorities would have intervened if medical tests had pointed to wrongdoing.

The 75-year-old Palestinian leader who had been suffering from poor health for years died Thursday in Paris, where he was taken Oct. 29 for treatment after tests showed he had a low count of blood platelets.

"Nothing leads us to think that there was poisoning," Philippe Douste-Blazy said in an interview.

The intense secrecy surrounding Arafat's final days has aroused frustration in many corners of the Arab world.

Neither Palestinian officials nor Arafat's French medical team have announced a cause of death.

Basques in Spain hold rally for autonomy

By ALBERTO LETONA
The Associated Press

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain — Basques singing songs honoring jailed members of the armed separatist group ETA turned out by the thousands Sunday at a festive rally to promote talks to resolve Spain's biggest political impasse — Basque autonomy.

About 15,000 packed the Anoeta velodrome to hear speakers defend Basque nationalism, eulogize ETA's attempts to achieve that, and denounce political repression most notably during the 1939-1975 dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco.

The rally was organized by activists on behalf of Batasuna, the pro-independence party considered the mouthpiece for the underground ETA. Batasuna was

"[The proposal] is not a tactical move to allow Batasuna participation in the regional elections in May, but a sincere attempt to end the conflict."

Arnaldo Otegui
Batasuna leader

banned 20 months ago by the Supreme Court. Spain considers ETA a terrorist group.

Batasuna spokesmen were expected to speak at the end, and announce they're willing to drop their traditional insistence that ETA participate in any negotiations about autonomy for this prosperous, three-province region in northern Spain bordering France. No such talks currently are under way.

The proposal "is not a tactical move to allow Batasuna participation in the regional elections in May, but a sincere attempt to end the conflict," Batasuna leader Arnaldo Otegui said before the rally.

The two biggest national parties have ruled out Basque sovereignty, though not necessarily additional political autonomy.

The ruling Socialists, elected to national government last March, and the conservative Popular Party have insisted that ETA renounce violence, and that Batasuna condemn ETA violence when it happens, as preconditions to any negotiations in which they might be allowed to participate.

Patxi Lopez, leader of the Socialists in Basque country, told The Associated Press that his party "will only take up political negotiations with Batasuna if it condemns ETA's use of arms." But "if they choose democratic means and reject violence, we will ask [the government] to legalize" the party, said Jose Azkaraga, justice counselor of the autonomous Basque government.

A spokesman for the Popular Party said ETA, not just Batasuna, also must renounce violence.

Iran accepts suspension of uranium enrichment

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran has accepted a full suspension of uranium enrichment and linked activities, diplomats said Sunday.

The diplomats said the Iranians apparently dropped demands to modify a tentative deal worked out last weekend with European negotiators and had agreed to their conditions not only to keep a freeze on enrichment in force but to also suspend related activities.

Washington has argued that Iran's enrichment activities are part of a nuclear arms program.

The diplomat said, however, that Iran had not yet fulfilled a key part of the deal — formally informing the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency of its decision and asking for its inspectors to help ensure it keeps its word.

"They have yet to see it in writing," he said, alluding to the International Atomic Energy Agency, based in Vienna. "Details are important, so they have to see it."

As negotiators for France, Germany and Britain struggled with the Iranian counterparts to bridge differences on the weekend, the IAEA delayed a report on Iran's nuclear activities scheduled for limited circulation to diplomats accredited to the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

African officials meet on Ivory Coast unrest

The Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — African leaders convened an emergency summit Sunday on Ivory Coast but without the country's defiant leader — still held up in his mansion, after newly promoting the hard-line commander whose forces launched a deadly air-strike on French peacekeepers to head of his armed forces.

As a French-led evacuation of Ivory Coast builds to a close of Africa's largest, French President Jacques Chirac denounced President Laurent Gbagbo's "question-

able regime" — and said France, Ivory Coast's former colonial ruler, would not tolerate much more.

"We do not want to allow a system to develop that would lead toward anarchy or a regime of fascist nature," Chirac told an audience in the southern French city of Marseille.

French civilians and other foreigners sprawled Sunday on camp beds set up in the departure lounge of Abidjan's international airport, their cats and dogs lined up in pet cages on the tarmac just outside — all waiting for

loading onto an Air France jumbo jet for the latest in five days of evacuation flights.

France's heavy criticism, and African efforts to resolve the crisis, came after a five-day spate of anti-foreigner rampages last week that have sent Westerners and Africans fleeing a nation — the world's top cocoa producer — that once was stable and prosperous, and the pride of France's former West African empire.

Invited to a heads-of-state summit called by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, Gbagbo announced through a spokesman he

would send the head of parliament instead.

"The country is in a crisis. He prefers to be here, to be ready for any eventuality," spokesman Desire Tagro told The Associated Press, referring to Gbagbo.

National Assembly president Mamadou Koulibaly, along with presidents of Senegal, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Togo and Gabon and top African Union and United Nations envoys, flew in for the summit, held in the presidential wing of Abuja's airport.

Our discussions will be to convince the Ivorian parties to go back to dialogue," Nigerian Foreign Minister Olu Adeniji said.

OPINION

Will Gonzales pick up where Ashcroft left off?

The Washington Post

Attorney General John Ashcroft's decision to step down is welcome. Ashcroft struck a polarizing tone as the nation's chief law enforcement officer over the past four years; lower-key leadership that seeks common ground could make a world of difference.

Unfortunately, President Bush's lightning-quick choice to replace him, White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales, has not been a stranger to controversy either. While less famous, Gonzales, one of the president's most loyal lieutenants here as he was in Austin, Texas, has been an architect of harmful policies related to the prisoner abuse scandal and the war on terrorism more generally. He brings a lot of baggage to the job of healing the breach his predecessor created, baggage the Senate Judiciary Committee should inspect carefully.

Ashcroft was nominated as a one-term senator, fresh off a re-election defeat, to please Bush's conservative base, with full knowledge that he would infuriate Democrats. Ashcroft did not disappoint, with especially unfortunate results after Sept. 11, 2001.

He not only pushed controversial policy proposals but also used rhetoric that questioned the patriotism of those who disagreed with him, and he inappropriately

hyped indictments and arrests. Ashcroft's Justice Department wrote a legal opinion suggesting that legal restrictions on torture might be unconstitutional. He presided over an alarming roundup of immigrants after the Sept. 11 attacks. Ashcroft's public persona made building a consensus on profoundly difficult questions all the harder.

Yet the USA Patriot Act probably would not have been very different had someone else been attorney general, and in any event it wasn't nearly as threatening as its critics believed. And Ashcroft has, on some issues, been a voice of moderation; the Justice Department pushed within the administration for a more reasonable approach to the detention of enemy combatants domestically, for example. In fact, on these issues, the outgoing attorney general was sometimes outflanked on the right by the man the president has chosen to replace him.

Gonzales, soft-spoken, smart and discreet, has won the admiration of many in Washington. The son of migrant workers, he was the first Hispanic to serve as attorney general. We respect some of his views, particularly his stance on affirmative action, for the same reason that conservatives might have opposed his nomination to that bench.

But his nomination also raises questions. Although there is a long tradition of presi-



dents naming close friends, campaign managers and even relatives to head the Justice Department, we think the post would be better filled by more independent figures. Such nominees were available to the president; each of the men who have

served Ashcroft as deputy attorneys general, Larry Thompson or James Comey, for example. Most of all, the Senate should carefully examine Gonzales' role in the decisions that helped lead to the Abu Ghraib scandal.

Families of fallen troops deserve equal treatment

WASHINGTON The battle for Fallujah had just begun and Anthony Principi, the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, spoke passionately to a group of reporters about the need to improve the services to those who would return maimed for life either physically or mentally from the Iraq experience to join their dwindling number of comrades so afflicted from other conflicts.

He noted that warfare against insurgency, when any innocuous doorway or innocent-looking child may pose a death threat, carries with it far more stress than traditional combat between uniformed troops. This condition produces anguish among victims that requires special and costly treatment to help that if it is not forthcoming can leave those who suffer from it more debilitated than from the loss of a limb.

The former Navy officer who served in Vietnam talked of the urgency for the government to extend insurance coverage to the families of those men and women who suffer catastrophic injuries, not just to the loved ones of those who lose their lives on the battlefield. Their financial needs are often greater in caring for their injured sons and daughters, husbands and wives, than those who suffer the initial shock of death, are paid \$250,000 and then carry on.

Principi's remarks to reporters came on the evening of Veterans Day and they were especially poignant and dramatic when juxtaposed against headlines that disclosed that the surviving relatives of 9/11 victims had received compensation that has made them wealthy far beyond what most Americans can ever dream of achieving. The av-

erage for families of civilians killed in the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and in the airline crash in Pennsylvania that horrible day is \$3.1 million. For the survivors of those in uniform, police and firefighters, the average is \$42 million.

In all, the payout for business and individuals by insurance, taxpayers and charity was estimated at \$38 billion. The amount paid by the Victims Compensation Fund (i.e., by the taxpayers) established by Congress to prevent devastating suits against the nation's airlines was a whopping \$7 billion. In addition, of course, there was a sizable contribution from private charity as millions of Americans opened their hearts and wallets for billions of dollars more. Insurance companies added about \$16 billion.

As staggering as the sums are, they are less jarring than the fact that suddenly Americans can become fabulously rich off such tragedy, that the families of a mailroom clerk or a multimillionaire executive who simply were in the wrong place at the wrong time have benefited to such

an extreme by their deaths. It is even more disturbing when one considers all those victims and their survivors through all the wars and other disasters who, as Principi put it, never asked for a penny.

It is as though their sacrifices were incidental or trivial compared to those of 9/11. If terrorism is the key here, what about those whose lives were so shockingly disrupted by the bombing in Oklahoma City? Does terrorism have to originate overseas before this kind of compensation is considered appropriate? Certainly money can't replace the losses suffered on Sept. 11, 2001. The families of those victims need and deserve more than just our sympathy. But the question becomes just how much more before the compensation becomes a ludicrous bribe to keep them from devastating a crucial industry in the courtroom? How patriotic are those victims that they would even consider such a thing? And for that matter just how wise was it for Congress to create that precedent in the first place?

My daughter-in-law was just a child when her father, a Vietnam veteran suffer-

ing from one of the first recognized cases of trauma from such an experience, took his own life one afternoon despite extended treatment. She and her sister and mother were devastated, but they never demanded or received compensation for their loss, which was as clearly linked to the war as if he had been killed in the jungle.

Principi wants to change some of that so American veterans can be considered as worthy as those who put in claims for exposure to dust and other possible health hazards near Ground Zero and were paid \$660 million, \$380 million of it from the U.S. Treasury and tax-free.

What is the difference between one whose son or daughter perishes in Iraq and another whose husband or wife or son or daughter died on Sept. 11? Both, after all, have been victimized by that hideous event for which we wouldn't be in Iraq if it had not occurred. Shouldn't we now make the treatment equal?

Dan Thomason is former editor of the Scripps Howard News Service.

Dan Thomason



Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Islamic militancy going global

BY BRIAN MURPHY

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The same day Dutch mourners gathered outside a crematorium for a final goodbye to slain filmmaker Theo van Gogh, police on the other side of the world made a horrific discovery in a hut: the decapitated body of a Thai laborer.

The two events — in settings as different as tidy and prosperous Holland and a tropical rubber plantation in southern Thailand — bear similarities that suggest new flash points in the global struggle against radical Islam.

A note impaled on Van Gogh's body by the alleged Muslim killer threatened attacks against Dutch politicians in the name of Islam.

The body of the 60-year-old Buddhist worker in Thailand also was found last week with a message: "More will be killed" in revenge for the deaths of 85 Muslim protesters last month in a region with a mounting Islamic insurgency.

"The fault lines are growing," said Fawaz Gerges, a professor of Middle Eastern and International Affairs at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York. "It's not just between the Muslims and non-Muslims. It's also within Islam itself. It's a battle between moderate Muslims and extremist forces that threaten to hurt Islam."

The most recent hot spots zigzag around the atlas — from Liberia in West Africa to the Netherlands to Southeast Asia. They join a growing roster of places already feeling the strains of religious conflict and terrorism along the edges of the Islamic world — regions as diverse as Chechnya, Nigeria, Spain, Central Asia and the Philippines. Even China is worried about separatist sentiment in its vast, mostly Muslim western province of Xinjiang.

"The militant voices on the street are



A Thai soldier looks on as Buddhist monks make their early morning rounds in Pattani, Thailand. Suspected Islamic militants beheaded a Buddhist laborer in Thailand's tumultuous south, police said. It is the second such killing in retaliation for the deaths of 85 Muslims at the hands of security forces last month.

gaining credibility in more and more places," said Gerges. "That's a worrisome trend."

Part of the reason, many Islamic experts say, can be traced to global communications that force common points of reference such as al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden's defiance or the guerrilla attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq. But even more powerful rallying cries come from firebrand imams and opinion-shapers: that Islam is under threat and it's the duty of followers

to take a stand.

"Extremism is reaching the roots of our democracy," the Netherlands' prime minister, Jan Peter Balkenende, said last week in Parliament.

"This is not something that happened overnight. It's a feeling of injustice among Muslims that goes back decades," said former U.S. ambassador Richard Parker, who served as a diplomat in Lebanon, Algeria and Morocco. "But now it's become much more legitimate to say that violence and 'holy war' is the proper way."

Fears remain a year after attacks in Turkey

BY JAMES C. HELICKE

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — A suicide bombing at Tily Rubinstein-Talu's synagogue not only killed her daughter and mother but also drove her to drugs and alcohol to numb the pain, she says, and left her and other Turkish Jews unsure about their future.

"They killed me, too, because I was only living" for my mother and my daughter," she said, a year after her 8-year-old daughter, Anette, and 86-year-old mother, Anna, died in the Beth Israel blast, the first in a string of attacks in Istanbul. "Nothing will ever be the same."

Jews like Rubinstein-Talu say they still live in fear as Jewish leaders consider building a new synagogue outside the city center in hopes it can be better protected.

Yet there's also evidence that last November's attacks backfired as far as Islamic radicals are concerned, weakening militant Islamic groups and driving Turkey, a longtime U.S.-ally and candidate for membership in the European Union, even closer to the West.

"The incidents had the opposite effects of those intended.... It provided an opportunity to provide solidarity. The synagogues were repaired and were quickly reopened," said Ilter Turan, a political scientist at Istanbul Bilkent University. "It demonstrated that Turkish society took a dim view of radicalism and terrorism."

Prosecutors say a Turkish al-Qaida cell, funded by Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida network, carried out the blast at Beth Israel as well as a Neve Shalom, the Jewish community's main synagogue, a year ago Mon-



Tilly Rubinstein-Talu sits next to a photograph of her mother in her apartment in Istanbul, Turkey. Tilly Rubinstein-Talu's 8-year-old daughter, Anette, and 86-year-old mother, Anna, were killed a year ago when a suicide bomber detonated a truck filled with explosives outside an Istanbul synagogue during services.

day. Five days later, the British Consulate and London-based HSBC bank were hit. The British consul-general in Istanbul was among 60 people killed in the two attacks.

Rubinstein-Talu said she slept late on the Saturday morning of the attack and sent her daughter with her mother to Beth Israel for Sabbath services but she stayed home to grade homework.

After the bombings, she virtually collapsed. She gave up her job teaching French and resorted to drinking and taking pills to carry her through the day, she says.

But months later, she found a short-hand-

written note from her daughter, apparently written to one of her teachers. "The note simply said: 'Teacher, teach me.'"

"It was like a message to me. You have to continue," she explained, adding that her colleagues and high school students — Muslim, Christian, and Jewish — have supported her in her bereavement. "It's a type of therapy."

A massive police crackdown after the bombings led to 69 arrests, and Rubinstein-Talu, who lives alone and is divorced, sends her attorney to observe the trial, which is continuing.

She harshly criticized shortcomings in the international fight against terrorism, such as the failure to capture bin Laden, and called for tighter legislation to fight terrorists.

But Rubinstein-Talu just shrugs when asked if she feels safe in Turkey.

"I believe Jews are only at home in Israel, but it's not so simple to me," she said, holding back tears as she described her daughter's fondness for singing, dancing and playing the piano.

"She was my unique daughter. She was the baby I always wanted."

The Turkish public was outraged by the bombings.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, accused by secular critics of Islamic leanings, condemned the attacks and even made an unprecedented visit to the chief rabbi's office shortly after the bombings. Erdogan's stance, coupled with the public outrage and intense police raids, have helped to undercut support for radical Islamic groups in Turkey, analysts said.

"Radical Islam in Turkey has been weakened," said Turkish terrorism expert Nihat Ali Ozcan.

Bus crash leaves 2 dead

ORLEANS, France — A bus traveling overnight from Spain to Belgium crashed on a highway in northern France Sunday, killing two passengers and seriously injuring four others, officials said.

All the dead and injured were Belgian, said Andre Carava, an official in the Loiret region where the bus crashed.

Complaint on referendum

SKOPJE, Macedonia — Macedonia's opposition parties filed a formal complaint with the Supreme Court on Sunday over what they say was irregularities during a referendum on the rights of minority ethnic Albanians in the Balkan republic.

The complaint came days after opposition claims of irregularities during the Nov. 7 referendum were rejected by the State Electoral Commission.

The opposition forced Sunday's referendum, which failed after only 26 percent of voters cast ballots — far below the minimum turnout of 50 percent needed for the plebiscite to succeed.

Voters in Macedonia were deciding whether to repeal a set of laws that gives the ethnic Albanian minority control over more than a dozen municipalities.

British honours list dead

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II laid a wreath of red poppies at the foot of the Cenotaph monument on Sunday in a somber service in honor of Britain's war dead.

Prime Minister Tony Blair also attended the annual memorial ceremony in Whitehall, a London thoroughfare lined with government buildings.

The service is held on the nearest Sunday to the anniversary of the end of World War I on Nov. 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m. But the ceremony at the Cenotaph, built in 1920, also honors those who died in subsequent conflicts. So far, 74 British service personnel have been killed in the Iraq war, 21 of them this year.

Belgium party disbanded

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Belgium's far-right Flemish Bloc party disbanded and reformed under a new name Sunday after a High Court ruling that upheld a condemnation for violating racism laws.

The party will now be known as Flemish Interest.

Recent opinion polls suggest that the group has edged ahead of mainstream parties to become the most popular in Flanders, the Dutch-speaking northern part of Belgium.

Australia honors explorer

CANBERRA, Australia — Australians on Sunday commemorated the efforts of a British explorer whose tenacity prevented their country being named New Holland or Terra Australis.

The British settled the colony of New South Wales where Sydney now stands in 1788, but little was known about the rest of the country — and it had no official name.

On Nov. 14, 1804, naval cartographer and navigator Matthew Flinders wrote to the British Admiralty to report on his exploration of the mysterious southern land, marking the first complete chart of its coastline "Australia."

However, officials in London did not like the name, preferring instead Terra Australis. Some others had informally also been using the name New Holland.

But when New South Wales Governor Lachlan Macquarie received Flinders' chart in 1817, he liked Australia and used it in the colony.

By 1824, the Admiralty finally accepted the continent should be officially known as Australia.

From The Associated Press

India launches program to help hungry citizens

BY OMER FAROOQ

The Associated Press

HYDERABAD, India — India's government on Sunday launched an ambitious food-for-work program designed to help millions of poor farmers feed themselves and pull them back from the brink of starvation.

The program will create jobs in 150 of the country's poorest districts that have been hit by drought, floods or other natural disasters.

"This is a first step toward the eradication of rural unemployment and ensuring that nobody goes without food," said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who launched the program with a ceremony in Aloor, a village in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

The farmers will be given jobs building roads and bridges, digging irrigation canals, and mending reservoirs and water storage tanks. They will receive 11 pounds of grain for a day's work, with at least 25 percent of that paid in cash. The national govern-

ment will provide the states with grain and money to fund the program.

Singh said the plan will accelerate rural development and boost farm production.

"We will move faster to develop roads and other infrastructure in rural areas," Singh said.

Creating jobs for millions of unemployed small farmers, many of them devastated by droughts and inadequate monsoon rains, was a key promise made by Singh's Congress party before its surprise victory in May national elections.

India's agriculture is largely dependent on seasonal monsoon rains. Scant rainfall this year has forced many farmers to sell land or take loans from money lenders at exorbitant interest rates.

Local newspapers have reported at least a dozen cases of suicide in recent months by impoverished farmers unable to repay loans.

Harvansh Prasad Singh, a federal minister who attended the program's launch, said the federal government has allotted \$450 million for the plan.



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh waves to the public Sunday at the launch of the National Food For Work Program at Aloor, a village about 45 miles from Hyderabad in the Indian southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

Mexico City stunned by 'little old lady killer'

BY LAURENCE ILIFF

The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY — Once relatively free of the sensational slayings that fill newspapers and lead newscasts in many big cities, the Mexican capital is now experiencing a growing number of serial or "copy-cat" killings aimed at elderly women with little to steal.

By media counts, the so-called *mataviejitas*, or "little old lady killer," has strangled or beaten to death some 18 seniors since 2003.

Ten killings have come this year, including one in late October and another suspected case last week.

Most of the victims were 65 to 80 years old, lived alone and were strangled with a stocking or extension cord by someone who had gained their confidence, perhaps by posing as a nurse or social worker, according to police and media reports. Although Mexico City has seen a steady rise in crimes such as car-jackings and kidnappings over the last decade, the number of homicides has remained relatively low, at an average of three daily.

Mexico City council member Irma Islas, who sits on the security commission, said the slayings targeted at one of the most

respected groups in Mexican society — grandmothers — show that criminal brutality has reached a new and dangerous level.

And she said the level of police incompetence is equally frightening.

Investigators in the city Attorney General's Office, she charged, have failed to warn the public or develop a theory on why the killings continue despite two arrests that were billed as having solved the crimes.

The official motive for some of the killings — robbery — makes little sense given the relative poverty of the elderly women, Islas said.

City Attorney General Bernardo Batts said in late October that two "little old lady" killers had been captured. He denied that the case of a 60-year-old woman slain days previously had anything to do with the earlier killings.

Police first said they had caught the "little old lady killer" in April, after a woman pretending to be a nurse, Araceli Vazquez, allegedly admitted to robbing 10 elderly women. She denied the two killings attributed to her by police. So far, she has been convicted only of the robberies.

But after Vazquez's arrest, the killings continued.

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Teacher's cello found

NY NEW YORK — A cello for sale in a midtown music store struck a familiar chord with a teacher at the Juilliard School.

That's because it was hers. Her beloved 69-year-old Michelle Ashley, is valued at \$30,150.

The cello disappeared from a locked closet at Juilliard while the teacher was on vacation in February, prosecutors said.

Pablo Melendez, 22, of the Bronx was awaiting arraignment in connection with the cello's disappearance.

If convicted, Melendez could receive up to seven years.

School field memorial

ID POCATELLO — Volunteers turned a middle school football field into a symbolic cemetery filled with white crosses to commemorate the more than 1,250 U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their Field of Heroes was the backdrop for the city's Veterans Day events.

Sexual mistake

FL JACKSONVILLE — A newspaper mistakenly published the telephone number of a sex talk service on the front page on its Election Day issue. The number was supposed to be for a national voter hot line.

"We didn't follow our policy of calling the number before publishing it," said Pat Yack, editor of The Florida Times-Union.

Yack said as soon as the mistake was learned, a correction was published on the newspaper's Web site and in the paper.

Public gets peak access

ND BISMARCK — A couple that bought North Dakota's highest peak will allow the public unlimited access, ending a battle among the former gatekeeper's children over what to do with the property.

Darley and Mary Dennis purchased White Butte Amnion, and about 1,000 acres of farm and ranch land from the heirs of Angeline Van Daele, who owned White Butte for 45 years. After she died in October 2003, the sale of the land ended up in probate court, which handles wills and estates.

Mary Dennis said she and her husband leased ranch land from Van Daele for years, and that they bought the property to give their cattle room to graze.

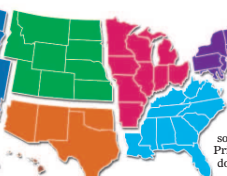
Dog drowning case

NH PORTSMOUTH — One of two women accused of drowning a dog in a bathtub in what was supposed to be a "mercy killing" has pleaded not guilty to charges of animal cruelty.

Shannon Walters, 34, of Newmarket, is charged with animal cruelty in the death of Dewey, a miniature dachshund owned by her friend's former boyfriend.

Walters co-defendant Erin M. Wylie, 27, of Portsmouth, pleaded not guilty on Oct. 28.

The women are accused of putting a wool sock over the dog's head and carrying it to Wylie's apartment in a garment bag. Both



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

were indicted in New Hampshire and Maine but waived their right to arraignment in New Hampshire.

'Hole' lot of luck

WA SPOKANE — Chris Varallo thought it was quite amazing when he ached the third hole at Liberty Lake Golf Course. Then he went ahead and hit a second hole-in-one on the 11th hole of the same round.

Odds against that are about 67 million to 1, according to Golf Digest.

The 22-handicapper, a lawyer, finished his round 31 strokes over par at 101 at the course.

Varallo, who has never broken 90, called his two aces "the two best shots I'll ever hit." At 31, he said, he's reached the pinnacle of his athletic career.

Too nice for flu shots

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Are Minnesotaans too nice to get flu shots? That's what some nurses are thinking after vaccination sites around the Twin Cities are being left with extra doses of vaccine, despite the nationwide shortage.

"I've heard many people say, 'I am 65, but my 92-year old mom needs it,'" said Mary Ann Blade, president of the Minnesota Visitation

ing Nurses Agency, which runs flu clinics around the state.

At a clinic at in the Minneapolis suburb of Bloomington, public health workers came to City Hall with 800 vaccine doses but gave out only 259. About 10 miles to the southwest, nurses at a clinic in Prior Lake arrived with 1,000 doses and left with 750.

Frustrated health officials said they may be dealing with an excessive case of "Minnesota nice," the copious courtesy and deferential nature for which Minnesotans are known.

Political strip tease

LA JEFFERSON — When an election worker told Debbie Dupeire that her Bush-Cheney T-shirt was illegal at the polls, Dupeire didn't get mad. She got undressed.

Dupeire ripped off the T-shirt and voted in a sports bra, too afraid to lose her place in a long line. Under state law, candidates' names cannot be displayed within 500 feet of a polling place.

"I really thought it was OK to wear my shirt. I didn't go there to cause trouble," said Debbie Dupeire, a 38-year-old makeup artist.

Pesky rat does damage

OK ARDMORE — It's a nutty explanation, but a mechanic says a rat is to blame for some car trouble.

Carol Windham was forced to run a red light when her gas pedal stuck down after she hit the brakes. Pressing both feet on the pedal, she managed to get her van through the intersection unscathed and was able to stop it near a fast-food restaurant.

The van was towed to an auto repair shop, where a mechanic popped the hood and found a pile of pecans.

Apparently, when Windham depressed the brake pedal, one of the pecans fell and lodged next to the accelerator cable, causing the throttle to stick open.

Windham checked the engine compartment of her other vehicle when she got home and found more pecans and half an apple.

"We put peanut butter on the rat trap, put it on one of the tires and tied it down," she said.

The next morning, Windham found the rat dead.

Parking lot dispute

FL ELLENTON — A motel manager was charged with holding a bus of Special Olympics athletes at gunpoint after a dispute about where the group should park.

John Embry, 47, was charged with aggravated assault and false imprisonment and was being held without bail, the Manatee County Sheriff's Office said.

Embry, manager of the Sleep Inn, held the bus at gunpoint for 10 minutes while the children lay on the floor because he did not want the bus parked in the motel's small lot, police said.

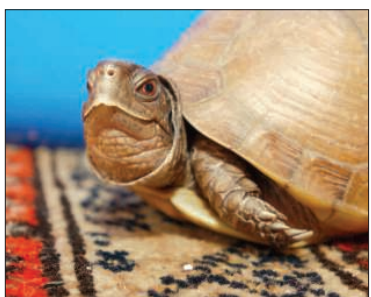
The competitors had returned to the hotel to change for a dance, dinner and awards ceremony. There were 19 athletes on board, ages 8 to 22, and nine adult chaperones.



Unusual transportation Allia Lane, 21, rides her unicycle with her daughter, Amariyah Lane-Volz in Columbia, Mo. Lane said her whole family rides unicycles and she began riding when she was 4 years old.



Cardboard box living Emily Duschon, 15, far left, Annie Shepard, 16, center left, and Carrie Cowan, 16, center, laugh at their effort in squeezing through a small opening in the cardboard boxes assembled on the grounds of Notre Dame de Sion High School in Kansas City, Mo., to raise awareness of homeless people and collect food for area food pantries.



Coming out of the shell A turtle peeks from its shell during an educational program with turtle expert Donald Shaw, not shown, at the Moore Free Library in Newfane, Vt.



A grand rainbow

A double rainbow forms at Hopi Point, after a rain shower at Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

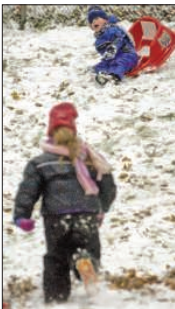


Don't put me under
chine in York, Va.

Computed Tomography technician Vic Shook strains to move a 140-pound sedated St. Bernard named Zeus onto the carriage of the CT imaging machine in York, Va.



Circus act
Clowns from Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus teach some techniques to the Parade Company's Distinguished Clown Corps in Detroit.



Winter fun

Hailey Hills, 5, runs toward her brother Mikey, 3, back, as they enjoy an early snowfall in Terryville, Conn.

Parakeet death charges

WV MARTINSBURG — A woman has been charged with animal cruelty for what police call a retaliatory killing of a parakeet.

Witnesses told police that Andrea Grantham brandished a knife during a weekend property dispute with a neighbor. Grantham then allegedly killed a pet parakeet that the neighbor had given her, police said.

Police found a dead parakeet in Grantham's back yard, "and she still had feathers in her hair when she spoke to police," Patrolman Scott Funkhouser said.

Grantham, 39, was arrested and released on \$500 bail.

Friend gets in the way

IN BLOOMINGTON — Taking to heart the credo that friends should never let friends drive drunk, a man shot out two tires on his pal's car to keep him from driving under the influence.

The move backfired when the incensed driver got out of his car, pulled a knife and attacked his friend, according to a report by Bloomington police.

Police arrested the driver, David Woodward, 39, of Indianapolis, on a preliminary charge of battery after the fight.

Authorities said they expected to file charges within a few days against the other man after officers found two handguns and an assault-style rifle in his home.

Krispy Kreme cake

WA ISSAQUAH — Carefully, 1,818 Krispy Kreme doughnuts were built into a 5-foot, 3-inch heap in an attempt to set a world record for the highest doughnut wedding cake.

Then backers of the effort at a Jewish celebration trade show in this Seattle suburb, dismantled the 363,600-calorie mound and gave away the glazed doughnuts, five at a time.

The result will be sent for consideration in the Guinness World Records, which now has no height record for a doughnut cake, said Caroli Freedel, chief executive of Mitzvah Mavens, which hosted the event.

57-year-old has twins

NY NEW YORK — The sister of Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa gave birth to twins, just three days shy of her 57th birthday.

Aleta St. James, who became pregnant by in-vitro fertilization, and her newborn son and daughter are doing well, said Maria Sliwa, the babies' aunt.

St. James, a motivation speaker who helped her brother set up the crime-fighting group in the 1970s, said earlier that it's never too late to become a mother.

"You are never too old," she said. "It's just in your mind."

Robbers can spell

MO KANSAS CITY — Two men who robbed the pastor of a Kansas City church at gunpoint last behind two clues for the cops to check out their names.

The Rev. Tony R. Caldwell was short of cash, so he offered to write each man a check for \$150. The men agreed, making certain the

pastor knew the correct spellings of their names.

The robbery happened when Caldwell invited the man to his upstairs office, where the man said he wanted another chance in a church program he had been kicked out of. The program provides food and shelter to men who are homeless or recently released from jail.

Mercury collection on

ME PORTLAND — Officials say close to half of the state's population now has access to mercury collection and recycling programs required under state law beginning in January. Some towns are setting up mercury collection facilities while others are constructing the work.

Escaped convict caught

NC GASTON COUNTY — William Glenn Barefoot fought the law until the bitter end. It took three officers and pepper spray to subdue him.

The escaped convict's 15-day odyssey ended when about 150 federal, state and municipal officers were combing a wooded tract in Gaston County, according to authorities.

Barefoot, 40, ran to a nearby house, intending to use the phone, said Steven Gladden, a U.S. Marshal spokesman. But it was too late.

Law officers searching within an eight-square-mile area already had spotted him.

When Barefoot escaped from the Hoke County jail, he was serving an 85-year sentence for a 2001 crime spree that included some invasions and the shooting of a sheriff's deputy.

Dessert allegedly spiked

NY BATH — A woman spiked her elderly neighbor's apple strudel cake with medicine after learning the 82-year-old man was going to include her in his will, authorities said.

"Lucky, he noticed the pills in the strudel before he got more than a bite or two of it," said prosecutor, Travis J. Barry.

Barry said Jennifer Clark placed the pastry with a nighttime pain reliever to try to hasten her inheritance.

Clark, 26, was originally charged with attempted assault. But under an agreement with prosecutors, she is expected to plead guilty Nov. 22 to reckless endangerment, which carries up to six years in prison.

Bathrobe beating

WA TACOMA — A man dressed in only his bathrobe subdued a would-be car thief over the weekend, beating the younger man bloody and holding him until authorities arrived, according to a police report.

The resident told police he was watching television when his girlfriend came into the room and said she thought someone was breaking into their 1990 Cadillac on track.

The 45-year-old man said he threw on a robe and ran barefoot to the alley, where he discovered someone in the driver's seat of his car.

The young man was trying to jam a screwdriver into the ignition, the man said.

Stories and photos from wire services



Free falling

Skydivers free fall some 13,000 feet over the Florida Keys above Marathon, Fla., during the opening day of the Sebastian/Keys Boogie, an annual parachuting event.

FACES

Britain's hall of fame inducts musicians

Robbie Williams, Michael Jackson, Queen, the Rolling Stones and Cliff Richard have been inducted into Britain's first Music Hall of Fame, chosen by the public as the best music acts of the past five decades.

The honorees were selected by a public vote by Channel 4 television. Also inducted Thursday were honorary members Madonna, Bob Marley, Elvis Presley, U2 and The Beatles. So far, there's no building.

Acts needed only to have been influential or successful in Britain to qualify.

Artists to perform for Darfur aid

Musicians including Chrissie Hynde, Mick Hucknall and Scottish band Franz Ferdinand will perform at a concert to benefit the people of Sudan's war-torn Darfur province.

The Refugee Voices for Darfur concert at Royal Albert Hall on Dec. 8 will feature singers, accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, performing the songs of Cole Porter, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said Thursday.

Soprano Barbara Hendricks, disco diva Jocelyn Brown, singer Andrew Coleman and British R&B newcomer Lemar also will perform.

Franz Ferdinand, one of Britain's biggest bands, will play by video link from Mexico City.

Proceeds will go to help refugees who have fled their homes in Darfur during 21 months of violence. International officials say tens of thousands of people have been killed and some 1.8 million people forced from their homes.

Bill Maher sued by former girlfriend

Bill Maher is being sued by a woman who claims he stalked her at a party and welched on promises to marry her and buy her a home in Beverly Hills.

Nancy "Coco" Johnsen, a former model and flight attendant, is seeking \$9 million and other unspecified damages, according to the action filed Wednesday in Los Angeles Superior Court. It accuses the political comic of fraud, battery and assault.

Maher's lawyer said Friday he expects the lawsuit to be thrown out of court.

Johnsen claims she fell in love with the HBO "Real Time" host during a 17-month relationship that began in January 2003.

According to the lawsuit, Maher convinced Johnsen to quit her career and in return promised the two would marry and have children, that he would reimburse her for clothing and other expenses necessary for her to accompany him as a "power couple," and that he would support her for the rest of her life.

Diaz and Timberlake sued for assault

Two photographers sued Cameron Diaz and her boyfriend, Justin Timberlake, for assault and battery, claiming the celebrity couple taunted and attacked them outside a fancy Los Angeles hotel.

Saul Lazo and Jose Gonzalez said the "Charlie's Angels" star and the pop singer threatened them and tried to photograph the couple near the famed Chateau Marmont on Nov. 6.

The lawsuit filed Friday said the photographers, on assignment for a photo agency, did nothing to harass the couple and stood more than 10 feet from them until Diaz ran at Lazo, bit him in the neck and tripped him, snatching his camera.

A representative for the couple said he could not immediately comment on the suit, but said in a previous statement they were "ambushed by two men" on a dark street and acted only in self-defense.

Diaz kept Lazo's camera, later turning it in to police.

According to the suit, she also tried to grab the other camera after pushing Gonzalez, who ran away along with Lazo as Timberlake called after them, "Come and fight, you chickens."

The photographers claim they suffered emotional distress and physical harm and request unspecified general, special and punitive damages, as well as attorney's fees.

Timberlake

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



LATVP

"As I enter into adulthood," says actress Claire Danes, "I'm that much more grateful for my achievements and that much more regretful of my failures." The former star of "My So-Called Life" has grown up and is now appearing on-screen opposite Billy Crudup in "Stage Beauty."

A decade later, the teen star of 'My So-Called Life,' and 'Romeo + Juliet' brings refined maturity to newest film

BY RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
Los Angeles Times

This is Claire Danes' first memory of acting: "I was 2. I was in pre-nursery school and it was nap-time," she said. She's speaking with conviction, conjuring up an image of her toddler self wanting to impress her teacher — and so pretended to sleep.

"I remembered observing my mother twitching in her sleep, so I was doing that, very subtly of course. I remember thinking, 'Wow, that's good, Claire. That's nuanced. She's never going to know I'm awake.'" Even at 2, Danes showed an affinity for the intimate acting moment and a preternatural self-awareness, both of which are apparent 23 years later, as she sits in a hotel lobby, discussing her latest film, "Stage Beauty."

A star of such films as "Romeo + Juliet" and "The Hours," Danes is less ethereal in person — more of a sinewy dancer type, although her slightly hunched shoulders make it clear that's not her profession. She is wearing snug jeans and a diaphanous purple print blouse. She sits in a chair, her long hands clasped together in her lap like a schoolgirl.

Her self-consciousness, now muted through a scrim of elegance and experience, is at odds with the vulnerable unconsciousness of her best screen performances.

Danes is at her most lush and translucent in "Stage Beauty," a theatrical confection about — what else? — life in the theater. It's one of those putative historical dramas that is actually a very modern discussion of sexuality and gender, told in an "All About Eve"-type narrative.

Set in 17th-century England when only men were legally allowed to be actors, it tells the tale of Ned Kynaston (Billy Crudup), the greatest star of the day, famed for playing such female heroines as Shakespeare's Juliet and Desdemona. He is secretly loved by his dresser, Maria, (Danes) who nonetheless usurps him and becomes his professional rival when the king declares that all female stage parts must henceforth be played by women.

Danes sees Maria sympathetically, as a girl stumbling into her birthright. "I related to her zeal and her desire to perform, which is so sincere and touching," the actress says. "I liked that she was both naive and ambitious. Some people have perceived her as cunning and calculating and I really don't."

"She had an insatiable yearning to act, and to love this man and she couldn't help herself. I don't think she intend-

ed to create the kind of rupture she ultimately did."

"Stage Beauty" is a film about acceptance — the kind of love that transcends sexuality and gender, bad behavior and identity crises. Crudup has the flashier part. He plays the man playing the woman in the big red dress, the one who plunges into degradation. Yet it's up to Danes to anchor the romance, to persevere with unwavering conviction. She sees beyond whatever disguise he might be adopting at the moment and forgives.

Coincidentally, the film chronicling the backstage drama of Elizabethan theater was itself awash in backstage drama.

Simply put, Danes was dating Australian rocker Ben Lee, while her co-star, Crudup, was involved in a long-term romance with fellow thespian Mary-Louise Parker, who was pregnant with their first child.

More months before that child was born, Crudup broke off with Parker and became romantically linked with Danes.

The tabloids went into prurient ecstasy, and the insinuations about the dewy, earnest ingenue — best loved for her role as teenager Angela Chase in the cult TV series "My So-Called Life" — weren't kind.

Danes refuses to discuss the subject. Her halting pattern of speech grinds to an uncomfortable full stop. Apparently, soul acceptance in real life is not an appropriate topic for public consumption.

Danes said a scene in "Stage Beauty," in which her character wrestles with self-doubt, "resonated very strongly for me. There were all these overlaps. I realized how much my identity relies on other people's belief that I am decent as an actress." She shrugs. "Or something like that."

That struggle has always been present, something Danes used to build upon, whether she was 10 years old at the Lee Strasberg studio, or 15, and carrying the one-hour drama "My So-Called Life" on her frail shoulders.

She ultimately quit movies for three years to attend Yale, in part to figure out whether acting was merely a habit or an avocation. She quit Yale to go back to film.

"I was yearning for it," she said. "No longer the precocious child star — 'I'm getting old, I'm 25,' she says only half-mockingly. 'I'm a big, fat adult now' — all the acting that used to be pure instinct has become more refined, more part of a process."

"As I enter into adulthood, I'm that much more grateful for my achievements and that much more regretful of my failures. It does have to do with accepting responsibility. It's like I've left the Garden of Eden and am now looking for a fig leaf."

Horoscope

The Capricorn moon locks an agenda into place, and it feels like the only choice is to accomplish that mission with soldier-like proficiency. Small talk? Don't have time. Aristocracy style? After the dishes are done! Try not to be militaristic in areas that require a more nuanced approach, like romance, or you could wind up hurting feelings.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 15). You grab life by the horns this year! This month's final decisions are made on a long-term project. Rewards still seem distant, but by the first week of the new year, the flow of abundance opens up. Make sure you're using your talents in February. You'll meet love while in a giving cycle. Romantic exchanges are rich with Aquarius and Pisces.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Bust out your old diary, dust off that guitar in your closet, and get into those boxed-away clothes. Memories inform you about who you are. A sweet person from the past re-enters the scene. This time, don't lose touch.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Purchases from the Internet, wholesalers and discount stores are winners. It's not so much about the actual money you'll save. It's more that you get a sense of pride from realizing how financially capable you are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Loved ones can play your heart like a harp, but don't let the angelic plucking disguise the fact that promissaries aren't exactly being kept. Instead of letting things slide, make a new agreement that can be more readily kept.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Getting your needs met will save you from later trouble. Perhaps you're toying with someone's expectations, but you can't get yourself to stop. Consider what your real desire is. Once you know, it's satisfied in an instant.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're heady with a sense of empowerment. Down with outdated ways of doing things... revolt! Your

mind/body connection is strengthened, making it possible for you to heal yourself, control your weight or prevent headaches.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A stealth mission is featured. It's up to you to ferret out the key information and relay it to your team. Being well informed gives you the edge, but don't exclude your primal intuition, which will focus you right in on the hot button.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Hesitation is the enemy act now and now and now! Love now! Wait! On a practical note, you can delegate more to specialists. Fix it yourself, and you'll likely break it further and watch your money swirl down the drain.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've got the answer to your identity issues, so trust yourself — as Gavin DeGraw sings, "I'm tired of looking 'round rooms, wondering what I've got to do or who I'm supposed to be. I don't want to be anything other than me!"

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You see your world through a romantic lens, fragrant breezes shifting shadowy clouds, sunset and fireflies, and suddenly, you're taking out the garbage. Real life can be such an interruption.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your exquisite handling of prickly people earns you a reputation — not that you want to be the go-to person for the world's most difficult personalities, but there are special privileges that reward your versatility.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Perfection is overrated. You're not Barbie or Ken (as the case may be) after all. Once you throw out the notion that appearances are more important than what is inside, "plastic" problems and people disappear from your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you're with your special someone, time isn't present. There's no beginning and no end (so it's no wonder you forgot to pay that bill or answer that call). Singles: Obsessing over your crush of the moment is a guilty pleasure.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis

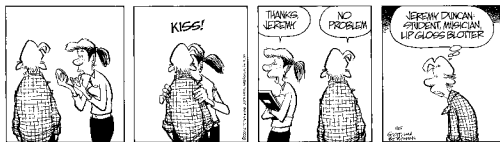


and you'll likely break it further and watch your money swirl down the drain.

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



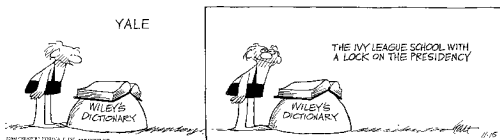
Peanuts



Forkrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



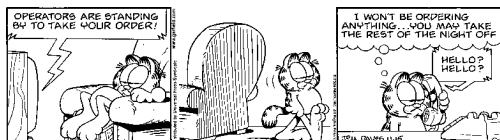
Dilbert



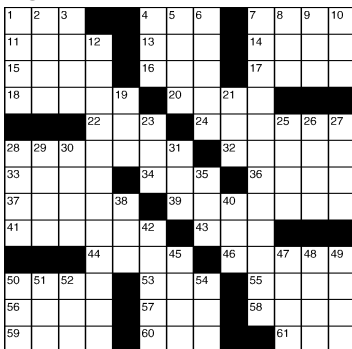
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



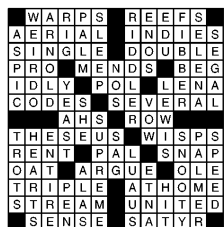
Across

- 1 Despondent
- 4 Ninny
- 7 Spill the beans
- 11 Injured
- 13 Bird often served au vin
- 14 Ashcroft's predecessor
- 15 Beehive State
- 16 Perfume label word
- 17 Simple
- 18 Refusal to Jose?
- 20 Elite alternative
- 22 Bottom line
- 24 Decanter, e.g.
- 28 Singer Janet
- 32 Unspoken "I dunno"
- 33 Troubles
- 34 Spot on a die
- 36 Piquancy
- 37 Ecu
- 39 Nightwear
- 41 Come to an end
- 43 Tie up the phone
- 44 Seductress
- 46 Has possibilities
- 50 New Zealand bird
- 53 Thickness
- 55 Actor Wyle
- 56 Green land
- 57 Ball-bearing item
- 58 Was philanthropic
- 59 Posse
- 60 Shrilk bark

Down

- 1 Avoid
- 2 Ford or Lincoln
- 3 Showdown command
- 4 Expert
- 5 "Passions," e.g.
- 6 Small
- 8 Meadow
- 7 Very exciting
- 9 Response (Abbr.)
- 10 Tarzan's son
- 12 Big parade day
- 13 "Absolutely"
- 21 Lettuce variety
- 23 Upper portion
- 25 Streetcar
- 26 Moth type
- 27 Breakfast staples
- 28 Agree
- 29 Emcee
- 30 Film fragment
- 31 Pinch
- 32 Remuneration
- 35 Mound stat
- 40 Pack like sardines
- 42 Vacuous
- 45 Entreaty
- 47 Motivate
- 48 Possess
- 49 Subsequently
- 50 Frat party item
- 51 George's brother
- 52 Triumph
- 54 "Uh-huh"

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-15

CRYPTOQUIP

K QDRRFQS UFD LKHAB QXU
BAXB LFEKSQ QBXMMKCH
XWBFM WASEU AXES LXCX

WAXQS QWSCSQ
Saturday's Cryptquip: I ONCE SAW A MINISTER REHEARSING HIS SERMON. I GUESS HE PRACTICES WHAT HE PREACHES.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Q equals S

SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Monday
AFN Sports, 9:30 a.m.—Doc: Franklin Templeton Shootout (dtd).
AFN Sports, 2 p.m.—Soccer: MLS Cup, D.C. vs. Kansas City (dtd).
AFN Sports, 6:30 a.m.—Drage: Major League Football of Southern California: Final, round (dtd).

Tuesday

AFN Sports, 2 p.m.—Rodeo: Pro Bull Riding Tour (dtd).
AFN Sports, 6:30 a.m.—NFL: Philadelphia at Dallas.
AFN Sports, 8 a.m.—Tennis: Masters Cup, Houston, Round 1 (dtd).
AFN Sports, 12:30 p.m.—NFL: Golden State at Cleveland (dtd).
AFN Sports, 7 p.m.—NFL: Philadelphia at Dallas (dtd).

All times Central European Time; dtd indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Not available in all areas. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	P	PF	PA
New England	7	1	0	293	208	14
Green Bay	7	1	0	293	208	14
Buffalo	7	1	0	293	208	14
Indianapolis	7	1	0	293	208	14
Jacksonville	7	1	0	293	208	14
Tennessee	7	1	0	293	208	14

South

Pittsburgh	7	1	0	293	208	14
Cleveland	7	1	0	293	208	14
Denver	7	1	0	293	208	14
San Diego	7	1	0	293	208	14
San Francisco	7	1	0	293	208	14
Oakland	7	1	0	293	208	14

West

Seattle	7	1	0	293	208	14
Los Angeles	7	1	0	293	208	14
San Francisco	7	1	0	293	208	14
Oakland	7	1	0	293	208	14
San Diego	7	1	0	293	208	14
San Francisco	7	1	0	293	208	14

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	P	PF	PA
Philadelphia	7	1	0	293	208	14
Atlanta	7	1	0	293	208	14
Washington	7	1	0	293	208	14
Dallas	7	1	0	293	208	14
Tampa Bay	7	1	0	293	208	14
Carolina	7	1	0	293	208	14

North

Minnesota	7	1	0	293	208	14
Green Bay	7	1	0	293	208	14
Detroit	7	1	0	293	208	14
Chicago	7	1	0	293	208	14
San Francisco	7	1	0	293	208	14
Oakland	7	1	0	293	208	14

West

Seattle	7	1	0	293	208	14
Los Angeles	7	1	0	293	208	14
San Francisco	7	1	0	293	208	14
Oakland	7	1	0	293	208	14
San Diego	7	1	0	293	208	14
San Francisco	7	1	0	293	208	14

Sunday's game

Chicago at Tennessee	1:00
San Francisco at Indianapolis	1:00
Baltimore at Jets	1:00
Atlanta at Kansas City	1:00
Detroit at Jacksonville	1:00
San Francisco at Oakland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cleveland	1:00
Washington at New Orleans	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Arizona	1:00
Minnesota at Green Bay	1:00
Carolina at San Francisco	1:00
Denver at New England	1:00
Oakland at San Diego	1:00
Philadelphia at Dallas	1:00

Monday, Nov. 22

Atlanta at Baltimore	1:00
San Francisco at Buffalo	1:00
Indianapolis at Chicago	1:00
Denver at New Orleans	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	1:00
San Francisco at Oakland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay	1:00
Atlanta at Seattle	1:00
San Francisco at Philadelphia	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	1:00
Green Bay at Houston	1:00

Tuesday, Nov. 23

New England at Kansas City	1:00
San Francisco at Dallas	1:00
Atlanta at Baltimore	1:00
San Francisco at Buffalo	1:00
Indianapolis at Chicago	1:00
Denver at New Orleans	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	1:00
San Francisco at Oakland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay	1:00
Atlanta at Seattle	1:00
San Francisco at Philadelphia	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	1:00
Green Bay at Houston	1:00

Wednesday, Nov. 24

New England at Kansas City	1:00
San Francisco at Dallas	1:00
Atlanta at Baltimore	1:00
San Francisco at Buffalo	1:00
Indianapolis at Chicago	1:00
Denver at New Orleans	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	1:00
San Francisco at Oakland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay	1:00
Atlanta at Seattle	1:00
San Francisco at Philadelphia	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	1:00
Green Bay at Houston	1:00

Thursday, Nov. 25

New England at Kansas City	1:00
San Francisco at Dallas	1:00
Atlanta at Baltimore	1:00
San Francisco at Buffalo	1:00
Indianapolis at Chicago	1:00
Denver at New Orleans	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	1:00
San Francisco at Oakland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay	1:00
Atlanta at Seattle	1:00
San Francisco at Philadelphia	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	1:00
Green Bay at Houston	1:00

Friday, Nov. 26

New England at Kansas City	1:00
San Francisco at Dallas	1:00
Atlanta at Baltimore	1:00
San Francisco at Buffalo	1:00
Indianapolis at Chicago	1:00
Denver at New Orleans	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	1:00
San Francisco at Oakland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay	1:00
Atlanta at Seattle	1:00
San Francisco at Philadelphia	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	1:00
Green Bay at Houston	1:00

Saturday, Nov. 27

New England at Kansas City	1:00
San Francisco at Dallas	1:00
Atlanta at Baltimore	1:00
San Francisco at Buffalo	1:00
Indianapolis at Chicago	1:00
Denver at New Orleans	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	1:00
San Francisco at Oakland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay	1:00
Atlanta at Seattle	1:00
San Francisco at Philadelphia	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	1:00
Green Bay at Houston	1:00

Sunday, Nov. 28

New England at Kansas City	1:00
San Francisco at Dallas	1:00
Atlanta at Baltimore	1:00
San Francisco at Buffalo	1:00
Indianapolis at Chicago	1:00
Denver at New Orleans	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	1:00
San Francisco at Oakland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay	1:00
Atlanta at Seattle	1:00
San Francisco at Philadelphia	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	1:00
Green Bay at Houston	1:00

Monday, Nov. 29

New England at Kansas City	1:00
San Francisco at Dallas	1:00
Atlanta at Baltimore	1:00
San Francisco at Buffalo	1:00
Indianapolis at Chicago	1:00
Denver at New Orleans	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	1:00
San Francisco at Oakland	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay	1:00
Atlanta at Seattle	1:00
San Francisco at Philadelphia	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	1:00
Green Bay at Houston	1:00

25. Gonzaga (0-0) did not play.

Saturday's men's scores

Pratt 71, Sarah Lawrence 63
St. Vincent 5, Penn St.-West 10
Asbury 82, Kentucky 67
Brescia 72, Seattle 49
Brown 69, Parker 70
Campbellville 71, Union, Ky. 63
Clark 71, Williams 66
Lambert 76, Lindenwood 74
Moore 76, Berry 66
Pikeville 83, Berea 69

Midwest
Brescia 72, Seattle 49
Brown 69, Parker 70
Campbellville 71, Union, Ky. 63
Clark 71, Williams 66
Lambert 76, Lindenwood 74
Moore 76, Berry 66
Pikeville 83, Berea 69

North
Brescia 72, Seattle 49
Brown 69, Parker 70
Campbellville 71, Union, Ky. 63
Clark 71, Williams 66
Lambert 76, Lindenwood 74
Moore 76, Berry 66
Pikeville 83, Berea 69

FAR WEST

Pratt 71, Sarah Lawrence 63
St. Vincent 5, Penn St.-West 10
Asbury 82, Kentucky 67
Brescia 72, Seattle 49
Brown 69, Parker 70
Campbellville 71, Union, Ky. 63
Clark 71, Williams 66
Lambert 76, Lindenwood 74
Moore 76, Berry 66
Pikeville 83, Berea 69

TOURNAMENT

Pratt 71, Sarah Lawrence 63
St. Vincent 5, Penn St.-West 10
Asbury 82, Kentucky 67
Brescia 72, Seattle 49
Brown 69, Parker 70
Campbellville 71, Union, Ky. 63
Clark 71, Williams 66
Lambert 76, Lindenwood 74
Moore 76, Berry 66
Pikeville 83, Berea 69

CVC Classic

Pratt 71, Sarah Lawrence 63
St. Vincent 5, Penn St.-West 10
Asbury 82, Kentucky 67
Brescia 72, Seattle 49
Brown 69, Parker 70
Campbellville 71, Union, Ky. 63
Clark 71, Williams 66
Lambert 76, Lindenwood 74
Moore 76, Berry 66
Pikeville 83, Berea 69

CONFERENCES

Pratt 71, Sarah Lawrence 63
St. Vincent 5, Penn St.-West 10
Asbury 82, Kentucky 67
Brescia 72, Seattle 49
Brown 69, Parker 70
Campbellville 71, Union, Ky. 63
Clark 71, Williams 66
Lambert 76, Lindenwood 74
Moore 76, Berry 66
Pikeville 83, Berea 69

THIRD PLACE

Pratt 71, Sarah Lawrence 63
St. Vincent 5, Penn St.-West 10
Asbury 82, Kentucky 67
Brescia 72, Seattle 49
Brown 69, Parker 70
Campbellville 71, Union, Ky. 63
Clark 71, Williams 66
Lambert 76, Lindenwood 74
Moore 76, Berry 66
Pikeville 83, Berea 69

EXHIBITION

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Clark 71, Williams 66
Lambert 76

Horns hook 'em

Controversial penalty against Kansas sets stage for Young to spark a Texas comeback

By DOUG TUCKER

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Stirring rallies are becoming a Texas specialty.

One week after scoring 49 unanswered points in the biggest comeback in school history, the No. 6 Longhorns got a touchdown run and a scoring pass from Vince Young in the final 4:11 to beat Kansas 27-23 on Saturday.

Young had 409 yards for the Longhorns (9-1, 6-1 Big 12), who rallied for a 56-35 victory over Oklahoma State last week and still have hopes of playing in a BCS bowl.

"One of the great things about Vince Young is that he can beat you both ways," Texas coach Mack Brown said.

Young scrambled 22 yards on a fourth-and-18 play and then scored on a 18-yard run to pull Texas within 23-20 with 4:11 to go.

"We expected that they were going to play the pass, so I just used my God-given talent to use my legs," he said. "In my head I refused to let them make that tackle. In my head I had already planned to make them miss."

Then, with 11 seconds to go, he connected with Tony Jeffery for the winning touchdown, denying Kansas what would have been its biggest victory in almost a decade.

"Vince threw a great pass," Jeffery said. "It was the biggest catch I have had this year."

The Longhorns got the ball for their final drive after a controversial offensive pass interference call against Kansas that left Jayhawks coach Mark Mangino fuming.

Mangino, in remarks that could bring a stiff fine from the Big 12 office, implied that officials wanted Texas to win so that it could bring a BCS windfall into the league.

"You know what this is all about, don't you? BCS. That's what made a difference today in the game," Mangino said. "That's what made the difference in a call in front of their bench. Dollar signs."

The Jayhawks (3-7, 1-6) still led 23-20 after Young's 18-yard TD run, but faced a third-and-7 from their 26. Quarterback Brian Luke hit Charles Gordon for a 16-yard gain that would have given them a first down.

But officials called Gordon for interference, making it third and 20. A moment later, Kansas punted out of its end zone and the Longhorns got the ball on the Jayhawks 47 with 1:53 to go.

"All of America sat at home and watched the play," Mangino said. "All college football fans who watched the game, we'll let them be the judge about that call."

Mangino backed off from his comments in a statement released Saturday night.

"After an emotional loss, in our seniors' last home game, I made remarks that I regret," Mangino said. "Any implications that BCS standings played a role in Saturday afternoon's game was inappropriate. I



Texas' Jeffery (12) is congratulated by teammate Cedric Benson after catching the winning TD pass in the final seconds on Saturday. The Longhorns beat Kansas 27-23.

have always supported the BCS system and will continue to do so."

Brown said he did not want to get drawn into a controversy.

"I know he's really proud of [this team] and I also know he's really frustrated," Brown said. "The other thing I would say is I think we had 100 more penalties than they did. So obviously, those are comments for the Big 12 office, not for me."

The Longhorns were penalized 10 times for 103 yards. Kansas drew three penalties for 23.

Kansas, a 22-point underdog, took a 23-13 lead with 7:41 left on a 1-yard pass from fourth-stringer Luke to Lyonel Anderson.

Young finished 22-for-40 for 289 yards and added 114 yards on the ground. Cedric Benson, the Big 12's leading rusher, had 161 yards on 28 carries and set an NCAA record by scoring a TD in his 36th game when he went in from 16 yards in the second quarter.

Luke came into the game in the second quarter when starter John Nielsen became the third Kansas quarterback in three weeks to go down with an injury. Luke finished 14-for-25 for 225 yards and a touchdown. His 73-yard completion to Mark Simmons set up the final Kansas touchdown.

Johnny Beck kicked three field goals in the first half for Kansas.

Special teams key to special victory for BC

By JOHN RABY

The Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Paul Peterson threw two first-half touchdown passes and No. 21 Boston College returned two punts for scores Saturday in a 36-17 victory over No. 13 West Virginia that kept alive the Eagles' bid for the Big East championship.

Boston College (7-2, 3-1 Big East) can earn a share of the conference title by beating Temple and Syracuse in its final season before moving to the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"It is a huge leap for our program and school," said Boston College coach Tom O'Brien, whose team hadn't won in Morgantown since 1990.

The Mountaineers (8-2, 4-1) squandered a chance to clinch their first BCS bid and a tie for a second straight conference title. West Virginia lost in November for the first time under fourth-year coach Rich Rodriguez. It also had 10-game conference and home winning streaks broken.

"We had destiny in our hands today. That's what is disappointing," Rodriguez said. "We didn't play like a good team. It will probably make us sick to watch the film."

It was supposed to be a battle between West Virginia's potent rushing attack and the Big East's top defense. Though West Virginia outgained Boston College 452-243, the cost was decided by special teams.

DeJuan Trillbore returned a first-quarter punt 41 yards for a score and Will Blackmon went 71 yards for a TD with a punt re-



Boston College quarterback Paul Peterson (18) dives for extra yardage on Saturday.

turn in the fourth quarter. They were the first punt return TDs by BC in two years.

"That was the defining factor," O'Brien said. "The two punt returns were huge. We broke some tackles and after that they were not going to catch us."

Eagles freshman Ryan Olicker kicked field goals of 44, 47 and 36 yards.

Boston College quieted a capacity crowd with several long kickoff returns and pinned West Virginia deep in its own territory on many punts and kickoffs.

The Mountaineers fumbled away the second-half kickoff, leading to a field goal that made it 27-7.

"Special teams were embarrassing," Rodriguez said. "Every time they started with the ball on offense, they had the ball past midfield. Every time we started the ball on offense, it seemed like we had to go 90 (yards)."

Peterson was 18-of-30 for 162 yards, including a 10-yard TD pass to L.V. Whitworth on Boston College's first possession and a 1-yard scoring toss to David Kshatovskiy just before halftime for a 24-7 lead.

Freshman Thomas gains 291 to pad lead in NCAA rushing

The Associated Press

DENTON, Texas — Jamario Thomas ran for 291 yards, tying an NCAA mark with his fifth straight 200-yard game, as North Texas won its fourth consecutive conference title and a spot in the New Orleans Bowl with a 51-29 victory over Idaho on Saturday night.

Thomas, the nation's leading rusher (189.9 yards a game), also scored four TDs and extended his NCAA freshman record with his sixth 200-yard game for North Texas (6-4, 6-0 Sun Belt), which will play a Conference USA team in the New Orleans Bowl on Dec. 14.

Florida 48, S. Carolina 14: At Gainesville, Fla., Chris Leak threw for six TDs as Florida (6-4, 4-4 SEC) ended fired coach Ron Zook a postseason berth.

Oregon ST. 24, Stanford 19: At Stanford, Calif., Derek Anderson passed for 334 yards and three touchdowns and Oregon State (5-5, 4-3 Pac-10) kept its bowl hopes alive. The Beavers must beat archival Oregon in next week's Civil War game to become bowl eligible.

UCLA 34, Oregon 26: At Eugene, Ore., third-string tailback Chris Markey ran for 131 yards as UCLA (6-4, 4-3 Pac-10) became bowl eligible and forced Oregon (5-5, 4-3) into a do-or-die game against archival Oregon State (5-5) next week.

New Mexico State 35, Florida Atlantic 7: At Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Buck Pierce threw for two touchdowns and ran for one as New Mexico State (5-5, 4-2 Sun Belt) won its third straight game.

New Mexico 21, BYU 14: At Provo, Utah, DonTrell Moore rushed for 101 yards and a touchdown and Fola Fasola recovered a fumble in the final minute to seal a victory that made New Mexico (6-4,

4-2 Mountain West) eligible for a bowl one game to play.

Colorado 38, Kansas ST 31: At Boulder, Colo., Joel Klatt threw a

64-yard touchdown pass to Ron Monteith with 5 seconds left and Colorado (6-4, 3-4 Big 12) became bowl eligible. Kansas State (6-4, 2-5) will miss a bowl for the first time in 12 years.

Duke 16, Clemson 13: At Durham, N.C., Matt Brooks kicked a 53-yard field goal as time expired and Duke (2-8, 1-6 ACC) handed Clemson (5-5, 4-4) a shocking loss a week after the Tigers beat Miami.

Arkansas 35, Mississippi 3: At Fayetteville, Ark., Matt Jones ran for 126 yards and a touchdown and passed for two scores as Arkansas (4-5, 2-4 SEC) broke a four-game losing streak.

Georgia Tech 30, Connecticut 10: At Atlanta, D'Way Jones returned a blocked punt for a touchdown and knocked down another punt himself, leading Georgia Tech (6-3) to a crucial victory. Tech became eligible for its eighth straight bowl bid.

Kentucky 14, Vanderbilt 13: At Lexington, Ky., Shane Boyd threw a 25-yard TD pass to Glenn Holt with 99 seconds left to give Kentucky (2-8) a victory in a game matching the SEC's worst teams.

Penn ST 22, Indiana 18: At Bloomington, Ind., Penn State stopped Indiana four times from the 1 in the game's final two minutes as the Nittany Lions (3-7, 1-6 Big Ten) ended a six-game losing streak.

Temple 34, Syracuse 24: At Philadelphia, Walter Washington ran for 185 yards and three touchdowns and also threw for a TD, pacing Temple (2-8, 1-4 Big East) to a stunner over Syracuse (5-5, 3-2).

Michigan State's Jason Teague rushes for a 42-yard gain to set up the Spartans' first touchdown in the first quarter against Wisconsin on Saturday in East Lansing, Mich. Michigan State kept its bowl hopes alive with a 49-14 victory over the previously unbeaten Badgers.

AP



Spartans: Wisconsin gives up season highs in points, yards

SPARTANS, FROM BACK PAGE

"You're not going to win them all," Stocco said. "You either get worse or you get better. Personally, I feel I took a step back today." Stocco completed 20 of 38 passes for 178 yards. But the problem for Wisconsin was more so on defense.

The Badgers had given up a season high in points by halftime and total yardage by early in the third quarter.

Michigan State grabbed a 28-14 lead on the first drive of the second half, sparked by the recovery of a surprise onside kick. It set up a 54-yard drive capped by Calaurick's 1-yard touchdown run.

"The onside kick was a huge play," Wisconsin receiver Brandon Williams said.

The Spartans had preserved their halftime lead by stopping Wisconsin on four straight plays from inside the 10 in the second quarter. Davis was stopped short of the goal line on fourth-and-inches by linebacker David Herron Jr. and cornerback Roderick Maples.

The play was reviewed by Big Ten officials, but the play stood as called on the field.

"You would like to score just before the end of the half and go in tied," Wisconsin coach Barry Alvarez said. "I felt that our guys were in the ball game."

Michigan State got a first-half touchdown on a blocked punt by Marshall Campbell, recovered by Travis Key in the end zone.

Damon Dowdell played the first half at quarterback for Michigan State. He was replaced by Drew Stanton because of a shoulder injury.

Both were effective running the ball out of Michigan State's spread offense, which kept Wisconsin off balance.

"They didn't do anything specific," Alvarez said. "They didn't do anything we hadn't seen. We didn't play well in any phase of the game."

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ZUL8TR

Week 11 Pick Deadline:
12 noon, U.S. Central Time
Sunday, November 21

Log in every week during the 2004 NFL Season and make your picks for the winners of upcoming NFL games. Earn points for every winning team you pick and at the end of the season, you may find yourself the winner. * Enter the "Secret code" above and DOUBLE your point total for the week!

*Certain rules and restrictions apply. See the official rules at www.oconus.com/nfl and www.strikes.com. There is no cost to participate, but you must register to play.

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USC's Dominique Byrd, top, is tackled by Arizona's Pat Howard on a first-half carry Saturday in Los Angeles. USC won 49-9 to clinch its second straight Pac-10 title and a trip to the Rose Bowl it might not be taking.

No. 1 USC wraps up Pac-10 title

Trojans overwhelm Wildcats in 19th straight win

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Just when it appeared Arizona was making a game of it, Southern California got it together.

A few minutes later, the outcome was decided. LenDale White ran for 118 yards and three touchdowns, Matt Leinart passed for 280 yards and three more scores, and No. 1 USC beat outmanned Arizona 49-9 on Saturday night.

By winning their 19th straight game, the Trojans clinched the Pac-10 championship for the second straight year along with a berth in the Rose Bowl.

USC (10-0, 7-4 Pac-10) leads No. 5 California by one game with one remaining, but is the conference champion by virtue of its 23-17 victory over the Golden Bears last month.

"This is just a wonderful accomplishment for our program," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "At this point, we've done everything we can do with the season. So dear to our hearts, so important to our program, so important to our conference — when SC's in the Rose Bowl, it seems just right."

That won't happen in the best case scenario because the Trojans have an opportunity for much more. If they beat Notre

Dame and UCLA in their last two games, they almost surely will play for the national championship, to be contested in the Orange Bowl.

Arizona drew within 12 points late in the third quarter, scoring its only touchdown after USC's third lost fumble of the game.

But the Trojans responded by scoring three TDs in the next seven minutes to put the Wildcats away.

USC's latest triumph also extended its winning streak in Pac-10 games to 14, and its winning streak at the Los Angeles Coliseum to 20. That ties the school record for consecutive victories at home, accomplished twice in the 1920s.

The Trojans have won 30 of their last 31 games and six this season by 30 or more points.

White, a 6-foot-2, 235-pound sophomore from Denver, scored on runs of 3, 2 and 6 yards, giving him 15 touchdowns in 10 games this season and 29 in 23 games overall.

"Our line wanted to run the ball, they wanted to prove something today," he said. "Coming in, they kept hearing that they're only getting 3 yards a carry. And we wanted to prove we could run the ball when we wanted to and how we wanted to."

Leinart completed a ca-

reer-high 27 passes in 35 attempts including 11 straight at one stage and wasn't intercepted. He has thrown 23 scoring passes this season, 61 in his career and two or more in 21 of his 23 collegiate starts.

Favored by 35 points, the Trojans stumbled a bit offensively in the first half, falling behind early, blowing two scoring opportunities leading just 14-3 at the intermission.

The second half was a different story.

White scored his second touchdown to cap a 76-yard drive with the second-half kickoff, making it 21-3.

Arizona (2-8, 1-6) scored its touchdown on a 9-yard pass from Richard Kovalchek to Steve Fleming with 4:55 left in the third quarter.

The score was set up by Wilrey Fonteno's recovery of a fumble by Reggie Bush at the USC 40. Syndric Steptoe ran 31 yards on a reverse before the scoring play, which drew boos from some in the Homecoming crowd of 80,167.

White scored for the third time to cap a 78-yard, five-play drive before Leinart threw scoring passes of 13 and 12 yards to freshman Dawnette Jarrett, who had six catches for a career-high 144 yards.

No. 9 Michigan pulls away from Northwestern

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michael Hart is one outstanding performance away from finally hearing praise from his coach.

Hart ran for 151 yards and a season-high three touchdowns and No. 9 Michigan scored TDs the first five times it touched the ball in the second half to beat Northwestern 42-20 on Saturday.

Hart, a freshman, has run for 975 yards in his last five games.

He has 1,311 yards on the ground heading into the regular-season finale at Ohio State.

"I told him after the game,

"Mike, after next week, we'll know whether or not you're a Big Ten back." Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said. "I like to change him."

"What he's been able to do, he's had a lot of help. But Michael Hart has certainly done his part."

The Wolverines (9-1, 7-0 Big Ten) led the Wildcats by only one point at halftime before turning the game into a rout with scores on the ground, through the air and on a punt return. They have won 15 straight games at home and 13 conference games in a row.

"We came out flat," Hart said. "But in the second half, we picked it up and put some points on the board."

If Michigan wins at Ohio State, the defending Big Ten champions will earn at least a share of the conference championship.

Northwestern (5-5, 4-3) has to beat Illinois and win at Hawaii for a second straight bowl bid and fifth in 10 years. Most teams need six wins to be eligible for a bowl, but Northwestern needs seven because it plays 12 games.

Michigan's Chad Henne was 19-for-26 for 187 yards with two TDs.

Tillman's 42 is retired by Arizona St.

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer was among about 50 former Arizona State teammates who gathered Saturday night to help the school retire the late Pat Tillman's No. 42 jersey in a halftime ceremony.

Members of Tillman's family also were on hand for the second such tribute at Sun Devil Stadium, during Arizona State's home finale against Washington State. The NFL's Arizona Cardinals retired Tillman's jersey in their home opener on Sept. 19.

"He would be the first one to appreciate us all having a beer on his behalf," Plummer said during a pregame gathering. "We're all here paying tribute to him because we loved him dearly, and we miss him."

The Military Order of the Purple Heart — made up of those wounded in battle — presented its initial Pat Tillman Patriot Award to his widow, Marie, as the Arizona State band spelled out "USA."

The former teammates, some of them in tears, formed a half-circle at the 42-yard line as the Arizona State band formed the number 42 and a framed jersey was unveiled. Washington State players wore a "PT 42" decal on their helmets.

Tillman, a safety for the Arizona Cardinals, walked away from the NFL and enlisted in the Army Rangers following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Tillman was killed last April during combat in Afghanistan.



Fireworks mark the occasion as relatives and former teammates applaud the retirement of Pat Tillman's jersey in a halftime ceremony Saturday night. The former Arizona State and Arizona Cardinals star who left the NFL to join the Army was killed last April in Afghanistan.

Auburn makes a bid for BCS title berth

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn appealed to the poll voters with a dominant performance that left coach Tommy Tuberville with little reason to give a stump speech.

The Tigers' 24-6 victory Saturday over No. 8 Georgia said it all.

"One thing I'd say: I'd hate to play us," Tuberville said. "I know the people will be fair when they vote. That's all we can ask."

Carnell Williams and Ronnie Brown combined for 260 yards and the third-ranked Tigers, who may have earned the boost they needed in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

Auburn (10-0, 7-0 Southeastern Conference) was third in both polls and in the BCS standings behind Southern California and Oklahoma this week. The Tigers knew a big performance against the Bulldogs would go a long way toward convincing voters. The Associated Press media poll and coaches poll that they're better than the second-ranked Sooners, no matter what Oklahoma does in its last three games.

If Auburn can move past the Sooners in the polls, it should be able to move past them in the BCS standings. The two teams met in the final BCS standings will play in the Orange Bowl for the national championship.

"It's going to be hard not to vote for us," Williams said.

Indeed.

At least one voter said he was impressed.

"I've been voting them high," Georgia coach Mark Richt said. "I think they are one of the best, if not the best team in the country."

The 108th meeting between the SEC's oldest rivals was also the third time the Tigers and Bulldogs (8-2, 6-2) were both ranked in the top 10 when they met. But Auburn turned one of the most anticipated games ever played at Jordan-Hare Stadium into rout.

Auburn's dynamic tailback tandem of Williams and Brown did it all offensively.

Williams ran 19 times for 101 yards and caught four passes for 20 yards. He also threw a pass and returned a punt 40 yards to set up Brown's 15-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter that made it 24-0.

Brown ran for 51 yards and caught seven passes for 38.

Georgia went scoreless for 57 minutes, before David Greene hit Leonard Pope with the 6-yard TD pass with 2:13 left.

Auburn held the Bulldogs to 279 yards and made two take-aways deep in its own territory.

The second turnover came in the third quarter with Georgia trailing 17-0, but threatening to make it a game. Greene found Reggie Brown for what would have been a first down inside the Auburn 20, but safety Junior Rogers hampered Brown, causing a fumble that Will Herring scooped up for the Tigers.

Oklahoma drubs Nebraska on White's three TDs

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Jason White threw for 383 yards and three touchdowns to help No. 2 Oklahoma rout Nebraska 30-3 on Saturday.

With star running back Adrian Peterson seeing little action because of a shoulder injury, White completed 29 of 35 passes. After throwing three incomplete passes on his first eight attempts, the sixth-year senior completed a school-record 18 in a row in his final home game for the Sooners (10-4, 7-0 Big 12).

Arrington, who entered the game as the No. 5 rusher in the first half after dislocating his left shoulder in Oklahoma's victory over Texas A&M last week.

Cory Ross was the only bright spot for the Cornhuskers (5-5, 3-4) with 130 yards on 30 carries before leaving the game midway through the fourth quarter with an injury.

No. 5 California 42, Washington State 21: At Seattle, J.J. Arrington ran for 84 of his 121 yards in the second half and Aaron Rodgers shook off a slow start to throw two touchdown passes.

Marshawn Lynch added another 121 yards rushing with TD



runs of 32 and 70 yards and a 29-yard scoring reception as the Golden Bears (8-1, 6-1 Pac-10) defeated the Huskies (1-9, 0-7).

Washington, which closes its worst season in 35 years next week at rival Washington State, hasn't finished winning in conference play since going 0-7 in the old Pac-8 back in 1973.

Arrington has posted 100-yard efforts in all nine games this season, a school record. The Pac-10 record is 11 by Southern California's Marcus Allen in 1981, when he won the Heisman Trophy.

Arrington is 45 yards from breaking Chuck Muncie's 29-year-old school record of 1,460 yards rushing. He'll get another shot when the Bears play rival Stanford next weekend.

No. 7 Utah 45, Wyoming 38: At Laramie, Wyo., Alex Smith passed for 244 yards and three touchdowns and ran for a game-high 105 yards and another TD as Utah scored on its first five possessions in the game that started 1 hour, 39 minutes late because of a power outage.

Utah clinched its second straight Mountain West title and boosted its hopes for a marquee bowl. Utah's school-record 190 start combined with Wisconsin's 49-14 loss to Michigan State could move the Utes into the top six in the BCS standings and a likely berth in the Fiesta Bowl. Utah is 6-0 in conference play.

Wyoming dropped to 6-4 overall and 3-3 in the Mountain West.

No. 17 LSU 26, Alabama 10: At Baton Rouge, La., LSU defensive end Marcus Spears and line-backer Cameron Vaughn combined for the go-ahead touchdown for LSU.

With the Tigers trailing 10-6 in the third quarter, Spears hit Alabama quarterback Spencer Pennington on the Crimson Tide 8, forcing a fumble. Vaughn picked up the ball and scampered in for the TD to give LSU its first lead.

It was the ninth straight home victory for LSU (7-2, 4-2 SEC) and a rare victory over the Crimson Tide (6-4, 3-4) in Tiger Stadium.

Alabama's Kenneth Darby, coming off a 200-yard performance a week ago at Mississippi State and averaging 106.3 yards, gained 109 yards.

No. 19 Iowa 29, Minnesota

27: At Minneapolis, Rhys Lloyd's 51-yard field goal try drifted left with 28 seconds remaining, allowing Iowa to hold on for its sixth straight win.

Drew Tate completed 24 of 39 passes for 333 yards and two touchdowns for Iowa (8-2, 6-1). Charles Solomon had nine receptions for 157 yards and a score. Kyle Schlicher kicked a school-record five field goals as Iowa claimed Floyd of Rosedale

— the bronze prize that goes to the annual winner of this rivalry — for the fourth straight time.

No. 20 Arizona St. 45, Washington St. 28: At Tempe, Ariz., Andrew Walter passed for 332 yards and five touchdowns in his final home game for Arizona State. The senior completed 26 of 41 passes without an interception while breaking the school record for touchdown passes in a season with 30. Mike Pagel set the old mark of 29 in 1981. Fifteen of Walter's TD passes came in his last three home games.

Walter, who holds the Pac-10 career record with 85 TD passes, threw for five touchdowns in a game for the fourth time. He has six against UCLA this season.

No. 22 Texas A&M 32, Texas Tech 25 (OT): At College Station,

Texas, Courtney Lewis scored on a 25-yard run on the first play of overtime and Melvin Bullitt swatted away Sonny Campbell's fourth-down pass into the end zone, sending the Aggies to a thrilling win.

Lewis' second touchdown run of the afternoon helped Texas A&M (7-3, 4-2 Big 12) dramatically end a two-game losing streak that included an overtime loss at Baylor and a seven-point defeat against Oklahoma last week.

No. 23 Texas-El Paso 35, Rice 28 (2OT): At El Paso, Jordan Palmer threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to lead the Texas-El Paso the lead in double overtime, then Rice's Ed Bailey fumbled on the 2 to give the Miners a victory.

UTEP (7-2, 5-1 Western Athletic) was forced into the overtime when Rice (3-7, 2-5) scored two safeties in the final 5:20.

No. 24 Oklahoma 542, Baylor 21: At Stillwater, Okla., Seymour Shaw was a solid replacement for the injured Vernand Morency, rushing for 172 yards and a touchdown on 30 carries for Oklahoma State.

Donovan Woods threw for two touchdowns and rushed for another as the Cowboys (7-3, 4-3 Big 12) beat the Bears for the ninth straight time.

Blocked FG helps keep Boise St. streak intact

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — When San Jose State lined up for a 30-yard field goal that probably would have ended Boise State's winning streak, Gerald Alexander figured the Broncos had used up all their lucky breaks.

He would have to do something extraordinary — and the cornerback's block was the biggest of several plays that barely kept Boise State unbeaten.

Jon Helmandollar scored his third touchdown in the second overtime, and the 14th-ranked Broncos extended the nation's longest winning streak to 20 games with a wild 56-49 victory Saturday.

Jared Zabransky passed for 200 yards and scored one of eight rushing touchdowns by the Broncos (9-0, 6-0 WAC), whose Bowl Championship Series dreams got a reality check when they were mostly outplayed by one of their league's worst teams.

The Spartans (2-7, 1-5) probably would have won it with that final boot from their solid kicker, Jeff Carr, with 1:07 left in regulation — but Alexander still believed.

"I have great confidence that I can get up and get a ball in a situa-

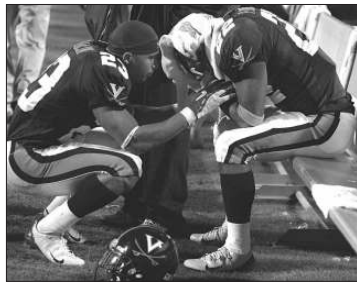
tion like that," Alexander said. "I was out the previous play, so I had time to rest up. I had a feeling I was going to try to block it."

Boise State's defensive line, after getting dominated for much of the afternoon, got a strong push up front — and Alexander got his hand on the ball, sending the game to overtime with that last defensive stand.

Lance Martin's 1-yard drive capped San Jose State's tying drive with 4:42 left in regulation, and they rallied for another lengthy drive. But the Spartans couldn't believe Carr's kick was blocked.

"I just knew we had it," Martin said. "Carr, he's money. You just knew it was going to be time to tear down the goalposts. When it got blocked, I was just shattered." Martin rushed for 112 yards, including a 16-yard score on San Jose State's first overtime possession. Lee Marks, who finished with 40 yards rushing, teamed with a 12-yard TD run for Boise State.

After Helmandollar's 1-yard scoring rush in the second overtime, cornerback Gabe Franklin drove San Jose State quarterback Adam Tafaalis out of bounds at the 4 on a fourth-down option play. The Broncos celebrated with the orange-clad fans behind their bench.



Virginia cornerback Tom Franklin (23) consoles teammate Philip Brown after he was beat for a TD in the final minutes against Miami.

Parrish seals Miami victory over Virginia

By HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTEVILLE, Va. — Roscoe Parrish looked like he had sealed the game once already with a dazzling 62-yard punt return for a touchdown.

But when No. 10 Virginia rallied on Saturday and the Miami Hurricanes needed one more play to clinch it, Parrish was the man again, catching a 25-yard touchdown pass on fourth down with 51 seconds left for a 31-21 Miami win.

The victory put the No. 18 Hurricanes (7-2, 4-2) back on course for a possible ACC championship and Bowl Championship Series berth, and restored some of the swagger lost in two consecutive losses on the final play.

"You can't just push us over," Parrish said. "You can't just expect for teams to come out and do whatever they want to do against us. When our backs are against the wall, we're going to handle our business."

Parrish handled a lot of it himself, adding a 45-yard punt return to help set up another score. A third- and 5-completion for 34 yards to Talib Humphrey with 2:24 left made the clinching touchdown by Parrish possible, deflating a record crowd that was trying to help inspire an improbable comeback.

"That wasn't a key first down, it was a huge first down," Hurricanes coach Larry Coker said. "What's the level above Coker? Is there a word?"

Frank Gore also had a big day for Miami, running for a career-best 185 yards and a touchdown on a career-high 28 carries. But Parrish, almost forgotten as a punt returner because of the exploits of speedster Devin Hester, did more damage than anyone.

He took a punt at his own 38 with just over 7 minutes left, cut across the field and turned down the sideline to make it 24-14.

Later, after Virginia (7-2, 4-2) used a four-play, 79-yard drive to close to 24-21 with 3:19 left, Parrish caught Brock Berlin's pass in the corner of the end zone, restoring the margin to 10 and ending any comeback threat.

The touchdown, on fourth-and-4, came just after Jon Peattie came up short on a 42-yard field goal try that didn't count. Coker had called a timeout with 2 seconds left on the play clock.

During the timeout, Coker changed his mind about going for the field goal.

"We were already starting to talk about what we wanted to do next series," Berlin said of the offense. "Sure enough, Coach Coker called us back on the field and said 'Let's give this thing a shot.'"

The Hurricanes ended a two-game losing streak and put themselves back in position to win the league title and its Bowl Championship Series bid with victories in their last two games. They play Wake Forest next weekend and Virginia Tech on Dec. 4, both in Miami.

The Cavaliers started the day tied with No. 16 Virginia Tech for first in the ACC and in control of their destiny, but fell back for the second time after losing to a team from Florida in a big game.

Almost a month ago, they lost 36-3 at Florida State.

"There are certain things, whether we win or lose, that will either make you win or cause you to lose," Virginia coach Al Groh said. "There were too many things in the 'cause you to lose' column today."

Late kick ends Pitt drought

By TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko quickly went from celebrating a record-setting day against Notre Dame to apologizing for a slip of the tongue.

That typified the range of emotions for the Panthers and Irish in a see-saw game Saturday.

Palko became the first quarterback to throw five touchdown passes against the Irish, and Josh Cummings kicked a 32-yard field goal with 1 second left to give Pittsburgh a 41-38 victory, the Panthers' first at Notre Dame since 1986.

Palko used an explosive during a live postgame interview with NBC. While meeting later with reporters, Palko apologized before taking any questions.

"Before I start, I lost my composure on the field and said something in the heat of the moment," Palko said. "That's not me. That's not Tyler. It was just a heat of the moment kind of thing. I apologize to my teammates, to the fans and anybody that was watching."

NBC Sports announced Tom Hammond apologized on air after the Panthers' win.

The Panthers (6-3), who by victory blew eligible with the blemish, snapped a six-game winless streak against Notre Dame. It was Pittsburgh's second win in 13 games against the Irish, and the Panthers' 41 points were their most ever in a game.

"I can't describe the feeling to come to Notre Dame and put the last points on the board," said Palko. "We had a minor hiccup, but from 51 yards in the end of regulation a year earlier in a loss to Syracuse."

Pittsburgh coach Walt Harris said the Panthers won the game for Billy Ganes, a receiver who died last summer. A photo of Ganes being tackled by a swarm of Notre Dame tacklers was on the cover of the game program, which Harris held up when he entered the postgame news conference.

The game was dedicated to the memory of Billy Ganes ... who was with us today and provided us the impetus to get the job done."

Palko fumbled the ball away on Pitt's first possession, then guided the Panthers to four straight touchdowns. He had just one TD pass in the second half, throwing a 9-yarder to Erik Gill with 2:24 left to put the Panthers ahead 38-35.

The Irish (6-4) tied the game with a 45-yard field goal by D.J. Fitzpatrick with 1:11 left, but couldn't stop the Panthers.

On Pitt's next play, Palko threw to Gill for what appeared to be a short gain. But Irish linebacker Mike Gooltry tried to strip the ball, and Gill broke free for a 36-yard gain. Palko completed two more passes to Gill on the drive, helping set up the winning field goal.

Palko was 26-for-42 for 334 yards, with no interceptions. Eleven quarterbacks have passed for four TDs against the Irish, most recently Purdue's Kyle Orton earlier this season.

Tulane freshman stuns Army

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Army knocked out Tulane's prolific starting quarterback, only to be worn out by a feisty freshman running back.

Matt Forte ran for 216 yards on 34 carries and had 283 total yards and four touchdowns to help Tulane beat Army 45-31 on Saturday night.

"Coach told me going in that we were going to run the ball a lot and keep pounding it at them. I knew I'd have a chance for a big game," Forte said. "I've been playing all year so the butterflies have been gone since the first or second game."

Forte turned a short sideline pass from Lester Ricard into a 47-yard score in the second quarter, then had two short touchdown runs and a scoring run of 48 yards after Ricard left early in the third

quarter with a right wrist injury (his throwing arm).

Forte ran for 159 yards in the second half as the Green Wave (4-5, 2-4 Mountain West) shifted from their usual pass-oriented attack to a time-consuming ground game.

"We never did stop them," Army coach Bobby Ross said.

San Diego St. 37, Air Force 31: Kevin O'Connell threw for 232 yards and two touchdowns, and Brandon Bornes ran for 103 yards and two more scores to help San Diego State end a six-game losing streak.

O'Connell was 17-for-32 despite frigid temperatures and the visiting Airforce (3-7, 1-5 Mountain West) scored 17 points in the third quarter after forcing two turnovers and blocking a punt.

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Cowboys will see if Eagles learned from first defeat

BY JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — When things were going well for the Dallas Cowboys early last season, Bill Parcells was asked about the great attitudes seen from several players not usually described that way.

His response sounded more like a warning. "It's easy to be a team player," Parcells said, "when you're winning."

His point was that players and teams show their true character in how they respond to losing.

A good example will be on display Monday night, though not by Parcells' Cowboys. The scrutiny will be on their foe, the Philadelphia Eagles, who are coming off their first loss after a 7-0 start.

There's no reason to think the Eagles are going to crater. After all, this is a team that's been to the last three NFC championship games.

But the dynamics are different this year because Philadelphia has a new leading man — Terrell Owens, whose presence fits what Parcells was talking about.

Owens was a happy camper during the winning streak and was a big reason for it. However, he has been practically a punch line with a 27-3 loss to Pittsburgh last Sunday and cameras caught him shouting at McNabb, then McNabb's wife.

The Eagles spent all week insisting that Owens was yelling words of encouragement. On a conference call with the media, McNabb said they were making dinner plans and that he walked away because, "I wasn't hungry at the time."

McNabb can laugh because he knows how well his team has handled all sorts of adversity the last three seasons. Philadelphia has lost consecutive games only twice and never lost three in a row; even the New England Patriots haven't been that consistent.

But the owner you put it behind you the better," tight end Chad Lewis said. "We've got a lot of confidence, we have a lot of great leaders on our team and a lot of players. No one is going to curl up into a ball and cry. No one is going to get behind a shell and hide. We're excited to get back on the horse this week, go to practice, correct what was wrong and come out swinging."

The Eagles had to lose a game, their timing was pretty good.

Besides dropping the pressure of trying to keep alive an unbeaten season, they were beaten by the league's hottest team, and one from the opposite conference. Now they get to try bouncing back in the spotlight of a Monday night game against division rival Dallas, a team they've beaten eight of the last 10 meetings.

But the only one who isn't a Cowboys (3-5) have in common with the Eagles right now is that they lost their last game on the road by a nearly identical score.

Monday, Dallas was routed 26-3 by lowly Cincinnati. And that made it four losses in five games.



Martin Truex Jr. (8) leads the pack at the start of the Bi-Lo 200 on Saturday in Darlington, S.C. At left is Kyle Busch (5). Truex's fourth-place finish Saturday earned him the NASCAR Busch Series title.

Truex Jr. wraps up Busch title; McMurray wins second straight

The Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Martin Truex Jr.'s fourth-place finish Saturday at Darlington Raceway gave Dale Earnhardt Jr. the first of two series championships he covets this year.

With the help of a bad day by Busch Series runner-up Kyle Busch, Truex wrapped up the title with one more race remaining in the 2004 season, giving Chance 2 Motorsports, co-owned by Earnhardt and his stepmother, Teresa, their first championship.

"I never thought this would ever come true," Truex said. Jamie McMurray shared the spotlight with Truex, winning his second race in a row and giving the new Rusty Wallace Inc. team its first series victory.

Truex is the first driver to win a Busch championship in his first full season since Earnhardt gave the first of his two consecutive titles in 1998. The new champion has been the top driver in the series most of the year, leading the series in wins (6), poles (7), top fives (17) and top 10s (25).

Asked if he believed he could win the title in his first full year in the series, Truex pointed at the beaming Earnhardt Jr. and said, "No, but he did. He told me back in the winter I could win this thing hands down and I told him he was crazy."

His boss said he knew Truex had the talent and the equipment to get the job done.

Racing roundup

"He just managed himself all year long, in and out of the race car," Earnhardt said. "He got great finishes and drove a couple of 10th-place cars to top-five finishes. He had good equipment and didn't overdrive it too often or get in trouble too often."

Earnhardt, who is third in the closest five-man championship battle in Cup history going into Sunday's Southern 500 here, was particularly happy to see Truex wrap up his title in a car with a sponsor, Wrangler, and the blue and yellow color scheme made famous by his late father.

"I told Martin it would be something special to me if he won the championship in this race," Junior said. "He wears that uniform with pride and understands the whole situation. It's just a little added bonus to the whole deal."

McMurray was excited, too.

"That's really cool to win at Darlington," said McMurray, whose No. 66 Dodge dominated the race, leading 72 of the 147 laps in the 1.36-mile oval, including the final 46. "Now that Rockingham's gone, this is my favorite race track."

"You might remember that three or four years ago, I said they should blow this place up, but I really like it now."

McMurray, a regular in NASCAR's Nextel Cup series and a part-time performer in Busch, picked up his seventh Busch victory and third of the year. The first two wins of 2004, including Nov. 7 at Phoenix, came in cars belonging to his Cup owner, Chip Ganassi.

Kahne gets truck victory after hard-luck Nextel Cup season

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Casey Kahne ended an historic night at Darlington Raceway with a milestone of his own — winning the Darlington 200 Saturday in his first NASCAR truck series start. Kahne, a 24-year-old rookie on the Nextel Cup circuit, figured to have several wins by now. He's finished second five times this season, part of his 12 top-five placings on the premier circuit.

But it was a decision this week to drive the No. 2 team's Dodge that finally got him to Victory Lane this season in the first night race at Darlington.

"It feels pretty awesome to win this race, especially at Darlington," said Kahne, whose lone NASCAR win was in the Busch Series last year at Homestead-Miami Speedway. "This is about the coolest track to go to."

Bobby Hamilton, the Craftsman series points leader coming in, finished second. Ted Musgrave was third, Carl Edwards fourth and Steve Park fifth as Dodge took the top five places and the manufacturer's title.

Davenport ousted from round-robin tournament

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Lindsay Davenport rallied for a 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 victory over Serena Williams in the WTA Championships on Saturday, although her No. 1 ranking was in jeopardy after she failed to reach the semifinals.

Davenport owns a 351-point lead over No. 2 Amelie Mauresmo, who could regain the top spot she held for five weeks after the U.S. Open if she wins the tournament.

Mauresmo defeated Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova 7-5, 6-4 to extend her 11-match winning streak, including titles in Austria and Philadelphia the last two weeks.

Davenport was knocked out when French Open champion Anastasia Myskina beat Elena Dementieva 6-3, 6-3. Myskina and Sharapova were the only two of five women in the eight-woman tournament to advance.

Davenport and Myskina finished round-robin play in the Red Group with 2-1 match records. The deciding factor was Myskina's 5-2 record in sets won; Davenport was 4-3.

Mauresmo and Sharapova advanced to the semifinals out of the Black Group. Mauresmo had a 3-0 record; Sharapova was 2-1.

Byrd, Ruiz retain titles; Holyfield loses again

NEW YORK — Chris Byrd felt the power and found the velvet.

Then Jameel McCline found out he made Byrd a heavyweight champion in the first place.

Giving away 56 pounds and several inches, Byrd survived a second-round knockdown and a bigger man's punch to retain his IBF heavyweight title Saturday night on a split decision by the narrowest of margins.

The fight was the best of two title bouts at Madison Square Garden. In the other, WBA champion John Ruiz retained his title despite being knocked down twice and penalized once in an ugly fight with Andrew Golota.

Earlier in the night, Evander Holyfield was dominated once again, this time by journeyman Larry Donald, but refused to call it a career. At the age of 42, Holyfield lost almost every round to Donald and has now won only two of his last nine fights.

Daly-Donofrio takes lead in LPGA tournament

MOBILE, Ala. — Heather Daly-Donofrio shot a career-best 66 on Sunday to set a 12-hole course record for three rounds and take a three-stroke lead in the LPGA Tournament of Champions.

She opened with a 69 and had a 66 Friday on Magnolia Grove's rain-softened Crossings course, leaving her at 17 under. This is the first time in a seven-year career she has posted three rounds under 70.

Memphis in Coaches vs. Cancer semis

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Memphis coach John Calipari is constantly riding his players about their defense.

In two games, the No. 24 Tigers have been successful in forcing them into bad shooting nights. That was the case Saturday night in a 75-58 victory over George Mason in the second round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic. "We did a nice job defensively," Calipari said. "I was probably on them more than I needed to be. I was on them about execution, which I am usually not as hard about, especially early in the season."

Memphis (2-0) will face St. Mary's in the national semifinals Thursday night at Madison Square Garden. In the other semifinal, No. 6 Syracuse will play No. 12 Mississippi State.

Sean Banks had 20 points and 11 rebounds to lead Memphis. Banks struggled from the field, hitting only five of his 20 shots, but was 10-for-12 from the free-throw line.

"We need Sean Banks to rebound," Calipari said. "He fought like heck and got 11 rebounds. I have been on him as hard as any body I have ever coached."

Rodney Carney and Darius Washington added 12 points each, and Anthony Rice finished with 11. Joey Dorsey had his second consecutive double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

"When you have four very good perimeter players, and one big man inside, those are the hardest teams to guard," George Mason coach Jim Larranaga said. "You can't leave any of them open."

Ja Lewis led George Mason (1-1) with 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Lamar Butler added 13 points. The Patriots struggled from the field, shooting 28 percent, including 3-for-19 from three-point range.

James again takes over as victory

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND LeBron James scored 24 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Washington Wizards 105-74 Saturday for their third straight victory after an 0-3 start.

James scored nine of the Cavaliers' first 11 in the fourth quarter, taking over just as he did Wednesday night in the first round of the playoffs. He finished 17-14 in the final 12 minutes and the Cavs overcame a 19-point deficit to win.

The reigning rookie of the year came in the game as the NBA's second-leading scorer with six consecutive losses and put Golden State in danger of besting the franchise futility mark set at the start of the 1997-98 season by opening 0-9.

Spurs 103, Hawks 88: Tim Duncan scored 26 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, and Bruce Bowen had a career-high 22 points to help San Antonio win in Atlanta.

Antoine Walker led the Hawks with 25 points, including three three-pointers in the final quarter. Atlanta's only other scorer in double figures was Al Harrington with 10 points.

Dirk Nowitzki had 31 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and four of Dallas' 12 steals in helping the revamped Mavericks win for the sixth time in seven games.

Richard Jefferson's 28 points and 10 rebounds led New Jersey.

Warriors 103, Bobcats 87: In Charlotte, Jason Richardson scored 27 points and Tony Murphy added 22 to lead Golden State over the expansion Bobcats.

It was the first win for coach Mike Montgomery, who opened his NBA career with six consecutive losses and put Golden State in danger of besting the franchise futility mark set at the start of the 1997-98 season by opening 0-9.

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Roundup

Spurs center Kasha Nesterovich had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Pacers 103, Knicks 97: In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal had 33 points and 12 rebounds, Ron Artest marked his 25th birthday with 22 points and Stephen Jackson added 19 as Indiana beat New York.

It was Indiana's fourth game in five nights, and because of injuries the Pacers had only 10 players available and used just eight, with all five starters logging at least 30 minutes.

Bucks 94, Hornets 91: Michael Redd scored 30 points, and Keith Van Horn and Desmond Mason added 17 each to lead Milwaukee over visiting New Orleans.

Joe Smith added 15 points and

11 rebounds for the Bucks, who have won three straight after a season-opening loss to Orlando.

New Orleans, led by Darrell Armstrong's 21 points, fell to 0-6.

Clippers 97, Bulls 96: Marko Jaric scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half and Los Angeles rallied from a 24-point deficit to beat winless Chicago.

The Clippers played their third road game in four nights after arriving at 2:30 a.m. from New York, where they'd lost to the Knicks on Friday night.

Corey Maggette led Los Angeles with 23 points, and Chris Wilk added 14 points, including two thunderous dunks in the final quarter when the Clippers finished off the victory.

Lakers 84, Rockets 79: In Houston, Lamar Odom had 20 points, 10 rebounds, and four angles led on to 19 points, coach Rudy Tomjanovich a victory over his former team. The Lakers blew a 22-point lead they held in the third quarter.

In an emotional pregame ceremony, Tomjanovich was honored for his 33 years of service to the Houston organization as a player, scout, assistant coach and head coach. He led the Rockets to NBA championships in 1994 and 1995.

Jazz 108, Pistons 93: Mehmet Okur scored 19 points against his former team, and Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 13 rebounds, leading Utah past Detroit.

Andre Kirilenko scored 17 points and Gordon Giricek finished with 15 points for the Jazz, who scored more than 100 points for the fifth time in six games, five of which were victories.

Detroit was without Ben Wallace, who missed the game because of a death in his family, and Chauncey Billups, sidelined with a sprained ankle.

Knigs 113, Suns 111: Chris Webber had a season-high 28 points and 10 rebounds, helping visiting Sacramento shake off its worst loss of the early season.

The Kings lost by 30 points at Seattle on Wednesday night, staggering to a 1-4 start.

Amare Stoudemire and Steve Nash had 29 points apiece for the Suns, who dropped their second straight after a 4-0 start.

Trail Blazers 105, Raptors 101: Vince Carter had 27 points and 16 rebounds, and Portland returned home after a winless road trip to beat Toronto.

Lamond Murray's three-point shot at the final buzzer appeared to tie the game, but the Raptors won 101-100 after a review by officials showed that the shot was too late.

Heat sign ex-Knicks Anderson

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Forward Shandon Anderson was signed Sunday by the Miami Heat.

Anderson was waived last week by the New York Knicks, who unsuccessfully tried to sign him and eventually bought out his contract, making him a free agent.

Anderson was to be in uniform for Sunday night's game against Milwaukee. Heat coach Stan Van Gundy said. But second-year guard Dwyane Wade will not, Wade, who leads the Heat in scoring, will miss the game, Freije spent his brief time with the Heat on the injured list.

To make room for Anderson, the Heat waived rookie forward Matt Freije and placed forward Christian Laettner on the injured list with patella tendinitis in his right knee. Laettner has not played yet this season. Freije spent his brief time with the Heat on the injured list.

Anderson, who is in his ninth NBA season, has averaged 16.2 points and 3.3 rebounds in 606 regular-season games with Utah, Houston and the Knicks.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	2	60%	
Toronto	4	1	80%	
Philadelphia	3	2	60%	
New York	2	3	40%	
Washington	0	4	0%	

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	4	2	67%	
Orlando	4	2	67%	
Atlanta	3	3	50%	
Charlotte	1	4	20%	
Florida	1	4	20%	

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	5	1	83%	
Indiana	5	2	71%	
Milwaukee	5	2	71%	
Chicago	3	3	50%	
Detroit	3	3	50%	
San Antonio	0	4	0%	

Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	6	1	86%	
LA Clippers	5	2	71%	
San Antonio	4	3	57%	
Sacramento	3	4	43%	
New Orleans	0	6	0%	

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	5	1	83%	
Utah	4	3	57%	
Minnesota	3	3	50%	
Portland	2	4	33%	
Denver	2	4	33%	

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	4	2	67%	
LA Clippers	4	3	57%	
LA Lakers	4	3	57%	
Sacramento	3	4	43%	
Golden State	1	4	20%	

Saturday's games				
Cleveland 105, Washington 74				
San Antonio 103, Charlotte 87				
San Antonio 103, New York 97				
San Antonio 103, Chicago 97				
LA Clippers 97, New Orleans 96				
Utah 101, Detroit 93				
Portland 103, Phoenix 111				

Sunday's games				
Dallas at Washington				
Philadelphia at Philadelphia				
Milwaukee at Miami				
Memphis at Seattle				
Denver at Sacramento				

Monday's games				
Golden State at Cleveland				
Houston at New Jersey				

Tuesday's games				
Charlotte at Atlanta				
Portland at Charlotte				
Houston at Philadelphia				
Memphis at Seattle				
Denver at Sacramento				

Wednesday's games				
Golden State at Cleveland				
Houston at New Jersey				

Thursday's games				
Charlotte at Atlanta				
Portland at Charlotte				
Houston at Philadelphia				
Memphis at Seattle				
Denver at Sacramento				

Friday's games				
Golden State at Cleveland				
Houston at New Jersey				

Saturday				
Cavaliers 105, Wizards 74				

Saturday

Cavaliers 105, Wizards 74

WASHINGTON — Jamison 6-17 2-2 14, Ruffin 0-1 0-0 0, Haywood 4-8 2-4 10, Hughes 3-12 0-7 6, Arenas 9-20 4-5 25, Hayes 1-7 0-0 2, Dixon 2-6 1-1 5, Peeler 1-5 0-0 2, Walker 1-3 0-2, Jeffries 0-1 2-2 2, Profit 2-3 0-0 5, Ramos 2-4 0-0 2. Totals 29-57 11-14 74.

CLEVELAND — James 10-20 4-5 24, Gooden 5-12 2-2 14, Ileguasca 8-15 5-5 21, McInnis 5-12 0-0 13, Newble 1-6 0-0 2, Snow 2-3 0-0 4, Williams 1-1 1-1 3, Harris 3-6 4-11, Pavlovic 4-8 0-3, Traylor 0-0 0-0 0, Vanecko 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 43-90 17-19 95.

SPORTS



How will Eagles react to their first defeat of the season? Page 30

Spartans upend No. 4 Badgers

Michigan State takes Wisconsin out of title picture with 49-14 rout

BY TIM MARTIN

The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Wisconsin's dream of an unbeaten season might have ended just before halftime Saturday at Michigan State.

That's when Anthony Davis went airborne toward the goal line on fourth-and-inches, expecting to score the game-tying touchdown against the upstart Spartans.

But two Michigan State players met him head-on to stop him just short — a pivotal play in a game that wound up a lopsided 49-14 Spartan victory.

"That was a big momentum shift," Davis said. "When something like that happens you really have to pull together as a team and get the momentum back, some how, some way. We didn't do that."

Michigan State used a powerful rushing attack, a trick play and a key defensive stand to defeat No. 4 Wisconsin and knock the Badgers out of the national championship race.

The Spartans (5-5, 4-3 Big Ten) handed the Badgers their first loss and knocked Wisconsin (9-1, 6-1) into a second-place tie with Iowa in the Big Ten behind Michigan. The victory keeps Michigan State's bowl hopes alive.

The Badgers entered the game ranked fifth in the Bowl Championship Series standings, primarily because of a dominating defense that had allowed 9.1 points a game — lowest in the nation.

But Michigan State rolled up 551 yards of total offense, including 430 on the ground.

It sent Michigan State seniors out in style in their final home game at Spartan Stadium.

"What a deal for our seniors, something they'll remember the rest of their lives," Michigan State coach John L. Smith said.

"Once we got the snowball rolling and got momentum, it was a good deal."



Michigan State coach John L. Smith, center, celebrates with Stefan Wheeler (72) and Sean Poole (79) following Saturday's victory over Wisconsin.

Jehru Caulerick had 146 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries for the Spartans. Jason Teague had 112 yards and a TD on 17 carries. He also caught a 30-yard touchdown pass on a trick play in the first half, with the ball thrown by wide receiver Aaron Alexander.

Davis led Wisconsin with 128 yards on 21 carries, including a touchdown. But he and the Badgers were cascaded with chants of "overrated" early in the third quarter from more than 76,000 fans at Spartan Stadium.

When it was over, Badgers quarterback John Stocco looked lost at midfield, as Michigan State players, fans and band members swarmed in clusters around him.

SEE SPARTANS ON PAGE 27



Wisconsin's Anthony Davis, center, is stopped short of the goal line on a fourth-and-inches by Michigan State's Roderick Maples just before halftime Saturday in East Lansing, Mich. The Spartans rode the momentum of the stop in the second half to a 49-14 victory.

No. 3 Auburn outclasses No. 8 Georgia in its quest to overtake Oklahoma in BCS standings

Page 28



No. 18 Miami ends losing streak with road victory over resilient No. 10 Virginia, keeps ACC title hopes alive

Page 29



James again leads team down the stretch as Cavs top Wizards for third straight win

Page 31



No. 6 Texas rallies late for another come-from-behind victory Page 26